

STARS AND STRIPES®

GI makes quilt to raise money for 1st ID charity

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Sgt. Nicole Smith



Heidelberg principal reassigned over 'number of issues'

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Treasures of duke showcased at Darmstadt museum

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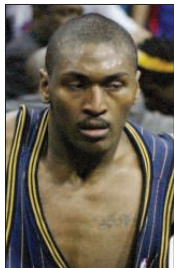
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NBA raps Artest with harshest penalty ever

Pacer out for season; 8 others suspended for brawl

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Ron Artest

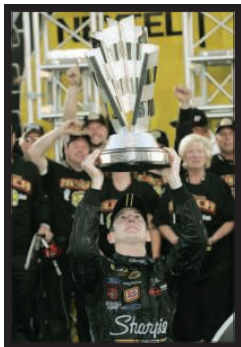
The shaved-head club bolsters Vilseck teen afflicted with cancer

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RICK EMERT/Stars and Stripes

A group of Vilseck High School students show off their Lance Armstrong Foundation "LIVESTRONG" bracelets Friday at the school. The students are, left to right, Aaron Vernon, Anthony Annable, Bobby Bohn, Roger Connolly, Kevin Pollock and Matt Downs. The group shaved their heads in support of Connolly, who was diagnosed with testicular cancer at the beginning of the school year.



Kurt Busch looks up at his trophy after winning the 2004 Nextel Cup Championship on Sunday at the Homestead Miami-Speedway.

Busch wins first Nextel Cup

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Sept. 11 memorial: The four living former presidents will be honorary leaders of the World Trade Center memorial project, New York Gov. George Pataki announced Monday. Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton have all agreed to become honorary members of the board of the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation. Pataki said in remarks prepared for a luncheon of the Association for a Better New York.

Members of the board will be officially named next week. The memorial, "Reflecting Absence," is slated to open in 2009.

JFK conspiracy theory: For years, Americans have viewed President John F. Kennedy's assassination through conspiracy-colored glasses. Writers, filmmakers and Web-site authors have blamed his death on a sinister network of shady operators: Cuba's Castro, the Mafia, the CIA — even Lyndon Johnson.

But two experts say new research shows Kennedy was killed Nov. 22, 1963, by two bullets fired by a lone gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald.

Relying on chemical, ballistic and statistical analyses, they say their work dispels more than 100 conspiracy theories tied to Kennedy's death. The work was published in last month's Journal of Radioanalytical and Nuclear Chemistry.

World

NATO troops in Sarajevo: NATO troops on Monday conducted an unannounced search of a home in a Sarajevo suburb, acting on suspicion that the owners might be aiding war crimes suspects, an alliance statement said.

Multinational forces searched the home of Milan and Milana Mladic in Kasindio, a Bosnian Serb-controlled southwestern suburb of Sarajevo, "to investigate the possibility that these individuals were supporting war crimes suspects," the statement read.

The statement did not specify which war crimes suspects the individuals were suspected of supporting, but Bosnia's two most wanted fugitive suspects are wartime leader of Bosnian Serbs, Radovan Karadzic and his top general, Ratko Mladic.

Madrid bombing inquiry: A paramilitary officer on Monday downplayed the importance of a recently disclosed cassette recording with potential evidence about the Madrid railway bombings, saying the information on the tape had already been well known to investigators.

Lt. Col. Jose Antonio Rodriguez Bolinaga was dismissed from his post in the paramilitary Civil Guard last week after news reports revealed that he took three weeks to hand over the tape to the judge investigating the March 11 attacks that killed 191 people and injured some 2,000. The train bombings were blamed on militants linked to al-Qaida.

Arafat's medical records: Freshly armed with Yasser Arafat's weighty medical dossier, his nephew on Monday pinned blame on Arafat for the late Palestinian leader's death and refused to put an end to rumors of poisoning.

The files are inconclusive on the cause of Arafat's death and confirm that doctors



Intentional flooding: Water from the Colorado River is released Sunday from Glen Canyon Dam near Page, Ariz. The water, which flows into the Grand Canyon, was released by the Bureau of Reclamation in an effort to redistribute 800,000 tons of metric sediment to maintain ecosystems on the river, officials said.

found no known poisons, but "I believe the Israeli authorities are largely responsible for what happened," said Nasser al-Kidwa, who is also the Palestinian ambassador to the United Nations.

His accusation, at a Paris news conference two hours after French authorities gave him the files despite objections from Arafat's widow, could inflame suspicions among Palestinians that Israel was somehow to blame — if only by confining Arafat to his West Bank headquarters for the last three years of his life, as al-Kidwa asserted. The nephew acknowledged that he had not had time to read the 558-page file.

Chavez forgives Spain: Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said in an interview published Monday that he has forgiven Spain for the previous, conservative government's apparent support for the coup that removed him from power briefly in 2002.

"We have regretted that position," Chavez told the newspaper El Pais on the second day of a three-day visit to Spain, referring to former prime minister Jose Maria Aznar's stance, seen as supporting the coup.

Chavez has made Spain the first stop on a five-nation tour, and was to meet with Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero on Monday and again on Tuesday.

Chinese airliner crash: Investigators have found no evidence of terrorism or other "man-made destruction" in the crash of a Chinese airliner that exploded after takeoff and plunged into an ice-covered lake, killing 54 people, according to official reports Monday. Divers searched the lake for the "black box" flight data recorders of the Bombardier CRJ-200 belonging to China Eastern Airlines. The plane went down Sunday after taking off from the northern city of Baotou on a flight to Shanghai.

Investigators sent from Beijing had not determined the cause of the crash but found no evidence of terrorism, state television said.

Kidnapped foreigners: American and Afghan forces searching for three kidnapped U.N. workers smashed their way into houses

in downtown Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday, officials and witnesses said.

About 10 people were detained in the pre-dawn operation, but there was no indication that the three foreigners had been found.

A U.S. military spokeswoman, Lt. Col. Pamela Keeton, said the joint operation was "related to the hostage situation," but said she had no further details.

Rescue in Darfur: Aid workers fled into bush areas Monday to escape fierce clashes in Sudan's Darfur region before being rescued by an African Union helicopter and flown to safety, U.N. and aid agency officials said.

Kate Haiff, Sudan country director for Save The Children, UK, said 20 workers for her organization and some other people were airlifted from the Tawilla area, in North Darfur state, where fighting between rebels and Arab militia has ravaged the region.

U.N. spokesman in Khartoum, George Somerville, said 45 people were airlifted to safety by an African Union helicopter after fleeing into bush areas following fighting Monday in Tawilla.

Guantanamo Bay detainees: About 25 people wearing yellow ribbons marched through central London to protest the incarceration of 12 Kuwaitis at Guantanamo Bay, including relatives of two prisoners.

The protesters marched down Fleet Street to the Old Bailey, London's central criminal court, to draw attention to what they say is the unjust imprisonment of Kuwaiti citizens.

Afghanistan's disarmament: One of Afghanistan's most powerful warlords has given up 45 tanks and a vast haul of ammunition, a U.N. official said Monday, boosting the country's belated disarmament drive.

Representatives of Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum handed over the tanks, all of them operational, at a ceremony in his northern stronghold of Shibergan on Sunday, in a move that could help consolidate the authority of interim leader Hamid Karzai who won presidential elections last month.

Stories and photo from wire services

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Vilseck student finds support in face of cancer

Fellow high school students, community rally around high school senior during illness

By RICK EMERT

Stars and Stripes

ON what was supposed to be the first day of his senior year of high school, Roger Connolly was in an Amberg hospital being tested for cancer.

Doctors found a malignant tumor on one of his testicles, and soon after Connolly was put under the knife. Then came chemotherapy treatments, which ended on his 18th birthday.

He ended up missing the first quarter of school and losing all his hair.

But when he return to Vilseck High School two weeks ago, some of his friends went out of their way to make him feel right at home. Five students, including four of his friends from the soccer team, shaved their heads the day before Connolly returned to school.

It was a tough decision.

"We were all going to grow our hair out for our senior year," Connolly said. "I thought they might back out on the decision to shave their heads."

They didn't.

"We didn't want him to be the only bald kid in school," said Kevin Pollock, who was joined by Anthony Amabile, Bobby Bohn, Aaron Vernon and Matt Downs. "We wanted to be supportive of Roger, so he wouldn't feel alone."

But even in his absence, Connolly still was part of the school. The tennis team elected him team captain, even though his recovery didn't allow him to play. The senior class elected him vice president of the student council while he was in the hospital.

Members of the Vilseck community sent him cards wishing him a speedy recovery.

"The community has been very supportive as a whole," Connolly said. "I got cards every day from friends, family and people I didn't even know."

Additionally, the school ordered several hundred "LIVESTRONG" bracelets, which are sold by the Lance Armstrong Foundation (www.livestrong.org) to raise funds for cancer research. The bracelets sold out the day



RICK EMERT/Stars and Stripes

A group of Vilseck High School students show off their Lance Armstrong Foundation "LIVESTRONG" bracelets Friday at the school. The students are, left to right, Aaron Vernon, Anthony Amabile, Bobby Bohn, Roger Connolly, Kevin Pollock and Matt Downs. The group shaved their heads in support of Connolly, who was diagnosed with testicular cancer at the beginning of the school year.

they arrived.

Connolly's battle with cancer has opened the eyes of the community to the illness.

"I came back and told everyone in my classes what had happened," said his mother, Becky Connolly, an English, video production and drama teacher, who took time off to be with her son during his hospital stays. "It really has raised awareness in the community."

Road to recovery

Roger Connolly said he first noticed a lump on one of his testicles during a regular self-exam.

His energy levels over the summer were very low, and he was

taking naps several times a day. He went to the doctor after a sleepless night in which he experienced an extreme, throbbing pain in his groin, he said.

A biopsy showed that the lump was a malignant tumor. Tests showed that the cancer had metastasized to his abdomen.

After the cancerous testicle was removed, Connolly went through two cycles of aggressive chemotherapy.

Now, he is slowly recovering from a cold that "knocked him

down," because his immune system was weakened by the chemotherapy, Becky Connolly said.

Pretty heavy stuff for a teenager to deal with, but Roger Connol-

goes in for his three-month check-up in January.

"I'm a little worried about January," he said. "You can never be too sure, and there's always a

chance it could come back. I feel these doctors know what they are doing, and they said it should be no problem.

The CT scan (after the chemotherapy) showed that it was totally gone, so that helps keep my hopes high for the check-up."

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"We didn't want him to be the only bald kid in school. We wanted to be supportive of Roger, so he wouldn't feel alone."

Kevin Pollock

Vilseck High School student

ly is upbeat and confident that he has beat his cancer.

Doctors told him after the surgery and chemotherapy that the cancer appeared to be gone, but he won't know for sure until he

Heidelberg High principal reassigned because of 'number of issues'

By KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

The principal of Heidelberg High School in Germany has been reassigned to the school's district office because of "discord between the administration and faculty" over "a number of issues," Department of Defense Dependent Schools officials confirmed Monday.

One of the issues involved an alleged shoving incident between Principal Brenda Granger and a faculty member, but officials said there were other factors that contributed to the change.

Harvey Gerry, DODDS-Europe chief of staff, said the shoving incident "was simply one piece of information, one factor

among "a variety of different issues" that District Superintendent Elizabeth Walker looked at.

"I don't think this allegation of pushing or shoving was the most relevant factor," Gerry said in a telephone interview Monday.

The most important issue, and the most important responsibility of any school district, Gerry said, is the welfare of the students and the environment in which they and faculty members operate.

Granger, who has been an educator for at least 15 years, will serve as a special projects officer for the district. Succeeding her on an interim basis as principal will be Carol Kuzmick, currently the special education principal for the Mannheim complex.

"High schools are dynamic and ever-changing environments," Walker said in a statement Monday. "An ongoing challenge for the school system is to match leadership skills and expertise with the specific needs of each school or program."

"There has been some consternation and discord between the administration and faculty at Heidelberg High School on a number of issues," her statement said. "To prevent this discord from growing and undermining a concentrated focus on our educational mission, the superintendent determined that an immediate change was in the best interest of the principal and the school community."

Heidelberg High School is one of the

largest in all of Europe. As of Oct. 15, Gerry said, there were 757 students enrolled in the school, which includes the sons and daughters of soldiers and civilians assigned to U.S. Army Europe headquarters.

Gerry said details of the alleged shoving incident "are kind of sketchy," and he reiterated that more went into the decision to replace Granger.

Faculty members learned of the change at a staff meeting on Friday. Parents will be receiving a letter on Tuesday, explaining the move, officials said.

"We hope the change will bring about a new sense of collegiality," said Frank O'Gara, a spokesman for DODDS-Europe.

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NEPMU7's job: Keeping forces in good health

BY JASON CHUDY
Stars and Stripes

SIGONELLA, Sicily — The main enemies of Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit 7 don't carry guns, but they can be deadly. And they're everywhere.

The 29 sailors and three civilians of the unit fight enemies ranging from single-cell protozoa to malaria-carrying mosquitoes for deploying sailors, Marines, civilians and even vacationing family members.

"Our job is force health protection," said Dr. (Capt.) Alan Yund, NEPMU7's officer in charge. "That means keeping people healthy, at home and when deployed."

To do this, the unit is staffed by a handful of medical officers trained in a variety of specialties such as industrial health and entomology (the study of insects) plus enlisted preventive medicine and lab technicians.

Tucked into a temporary building sitting in a barracks parking lot at Sigonella's Naval Air Station II, the unit provides health protection to Navy and Marine Corps forces in the U.S. European and Central commands' areas of responsibility.

"From 2000 to 2003, we went to over 40 different countries in the region, either operational or exercise missions of some sort," said Yund. "It's obviously critically important for our people to be healthy — not to be sick, not to be injured."

In the past two years, the unit has sent teams to a malaria outbreak among Marines in Liberia, embedded with other Marines to detect chemical weapons during Operation Iraqi Freedom I, and inspected a camp site in Poland, which was to house U.S. military personnel during a multinational exercise.

"It's a job that keeps the unit on its feet."

"If you want to stay in one spot, it's probably not for you," Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher Bray said of the unit's mission.

Assigned sailors say they keep their bags packed.

"Within three hours we can go to the flight line and be ready to board a plane," said Bray.

Petty Officer 1st Class Enrique Pallesco was on leave last year when he got a call to deploy to Liberia for the malaria outbreak.

Many unit members deployed with Marine units before arriving at NEPMU7. But they get even more training once they arrive.

"One of the things we do is go to a field medical school," Pallesco said. "It's a seven-week school where they teach us about being with the Marines — land navigation, forced marches, weapons and first aid."

The majority of its deployments are with Marines, the unit also checks ports where Navy ships are expected to dock.



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Petty Officer 2nd Class Scott Gervasi, right, of Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit 7, explains the operation of a sound meter to another sailor.

Benefits of NEPMU7

Whether for a Marine deploying to the Middle East or a family member heading on an African safari, the Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit 7 can provide medical advice to make the trip as healthy as possible.

The Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily-based unit's Travel Medicine Clinic gives the base's personnel recommendations, vaccinations and prescriptions for prophylaxis drugs for either official or personal travel.

"A lot of the population doesn't know we have a travel clinic," said Lt. Cmdr. Leo Murphy, the unit's department head for deployment readiness and lab services.

Base personnel can make an appointment with the clinic by calling DSN 624-9227 or 624-9251. Callers will first be asked a number of questions regarding their medical needs and travel plans. They will then be given an appointment either at the hospital or flight line clinic.

Unit personnel will research the requirements for the area where the travelers are going and provide information, immunizations and prescriptions at the appointment.

— Jason Chudy

"We talk to the hospital, find what their capabilities are for emergency treatment, talk to public health ... port liaison," he said. "They'll also check to see if the pier's potable water system actually carries clean water."

NEPMU7 will soon be sending its 12-member Forward Deployed Preventive Medicine Unit to the Middle East as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom III. At the same time, it will deploy two other small teams.

"You're packed up anyway, so you're ready to go," said Pallesco.

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SIG HEPPNER/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Col. James B. Brown, commander of the 18th Military Police Brigade, pays his respects at a service for Pfc. Cole. William Larsen on Monday at Coleman Barracks, Mannheim, Germany.

Mannheim community pays tribute to GI killed in Iraq

BY JESSICA INIGO
Stars and Stripes

Just two weeks ago, Pfc. Cole William Larsen was living life to the fullest.

On Monday, mourners gathered in Mannheim, Germany, to remember the 19-year-old soldier, who was killed Nov. 12 in a vehicle accident in Iraq.

Larsen, a gunner for the 1st Platoon, 3rd Squad, 272nd Military Police Company, 95th Military Police Battalion at Taylor Barracks, died in Baghdad while driving to Camp Volunteer with his security team, according to a statement issued by the Mannheim community. His armored support vehicle was clipped by another unidentified vehicle and rolled over several times. He was pronounced dead on the scene.

He had come to Mannheim directly out of the Army's military police job training and deployed to Iraq three months later.

At the midway point in his deployment, Larsen, a native of Santa Clarita, Calif., made a surprise visit to his family during Rest and Recuperation leave.

"We went to the dunes and rode quads, we went to shoot skeet, he kept his friends tied up with visits, and spent a little bit of time with almost all the family," Larsen's father, Ballard T. Larsen, said in a telephone interview Monday. "We're fortunate because we got to see him at home doing all the things he liked to do."

"Our family has been around for a long time. We had Larsens fighting from the Revolutionary War all the way through. There has been Larsens fighting and dying for this country since its infancy."

Ballard T. Larsen
Father

It was the last time the Larsen family would see their soldier.

Because Larsen spent such a small amount of time at Taylor Barracks before deploying, only the soldiers he deployed with knew the young troop. That made the impact of his death all the more painful to Mannheim community members who gathered for the service at Benjamin Franklin Village Chapel, because they never got the chance to know him better, said Raphael Ereditia, a spokesman for 293rd Base Support Battalion.

Larsen is the first casualty from the Mannheim military community and though the people who knew him best are still deployed, Ereditia said people could get an impression of who Larsen was from his comrades.

According to Ereditia, Sgt. Brett Browning, Larsen's noncommissioned officer in charge, described his soldier as a "simple country boy" even though he was from California. He was attached to the great outdoors; he loved mo-

torcycles and always liked to talk about dirt bikes in particular.

Browning said Larsen also loved to tinker with cars and was supposed to help his father repair his Ford truck as soon as he got back to California. Larsen was very attached to his family and had an exceptional bond with his father, according to the NCOIC.

Browning immediately made arrangements to be with the Larsen family in California after the accident.

The Army posthumously awarded Larsen with a Bronze Star, the Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal and the Global War on Terror Service Medal, according to Ereditia.

"Our family has been around for a long time," the father said with both sadness and pride from his Santa Clarita home. "We had Larsens fighting from the Revolutionary War all the way through."

"There has been Larsens fighting and dying for this country since its infancy."

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: inigo@mail.strips.osd.mil

Authorities investigating deadly wreck

U.S. and German authorities are investigating the cause of a two-car accident Thursday that killed a civilian employee from the 415th Base Support Battalion in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

The victim, Patsy G. Loomis, 58, was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident on Autobahn 62

near Landstuhl. Loomis was the community supervisory librarian for the 415th BSB. She is survived by two sisters.

Plans for a local memorial service for Loomis were pending as of Monday, and will be announced at a later date, according to the 415th BSB public affairs office.

From staff reports

U.S. death toll in Iraq for November hits 101

At least 54 casualties resulted from battle to control Fallujah

The Associated Press

Three Marines who were wounded in action during the Fallujah offensive died over the weekend at American hospitals in Germany and the United States, the Pentagon said Monday, raising the U.S. military death toll in Iraq for November to at least 101.

Since the initial U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003, the only other month in which U.S. deaths exceeded 100 was last April, when insurgent violence flared and Marines fought fierce battles in Fallujah and Kamadi.

In Baghdad, gunmen on Monday assassinated a member of an influential Sunni clerics' group that has called for a boycott of national elections, just a day after Iraqi officials announced the balloting would be held Jan. 30 in spite of rising violence in Iraq.

The Pentagon said two Marines died Saturday at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. A third died Friday at National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

Landstuhl is a hub for seriously wounded U.S. soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan, and officials last week said the flow of injured to the hospital jumped to about twice the normal rate after the battle for Fallujah began.

The official U.S. death toll for the Fallujah offensive, which began Nov. 7, has not been updated since Lt. Gen. John Sattler, commander of the 1st Marine

Expeditionary Force, said Nov. 18 that it stood at 51. But Monday's announced deaths mean the toll has risen to at least 54.

The Marines have suffered most of the Fallujah battle casualties. An exact number is not available because the Marines usually do not specify the city in which a casualty happened. Since Nov. 1, the Marines have had at least 69 deaths throughout Iraq — mostly in Fallujah. That is by far the deadliest month of the war for the Marines; their previous high was 52 last April.

Of the approximately 138,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, about 35,000 are Marines.

U.S. and Iraqi troops have been clearing the last of the resistance from Fallujah, the main rebel bastion stormed Nov. 8 in hopes of breaking the back of the insurgency before the election.

U.S. Marine Maj. Jim West said Sunday that American troops have found nearly 20 "atrocities sites" where insurgents imprisoned, tortured and murdered hostages. West said troops found rooms containing knives and black hoods, "many of them blood-covered."

The storming of Fallujah has heightened tensions throughout Sunni Arab areas, triggering a surge of clashes in Mosul, Beilji, Samarra, Ramadi and elsewhere.

The government's announcement Sunday that elections were

set for Jan. 30 reflected Iraqi and U.S. determination to hold the vote despite the persistent violence.

In Baghdad, Sheikh Faidh Mohammed Amin al-Faidhi, a member of the Association of Muslim Scholars, was shot by gunmen at his home in northern Mosul. The slaying could further alienate Iraq's Sunni Arab minority ahead of the Jan. 30 election. The association is already calling for a boycott of the vote, and if many Sunni heed its call, the legitimacy of the election could be deeply undermined.

Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said his government was determined to hold the election as scheduled.

Elsewhere Monday, a U.S. patrol that came under attack returned fire, killing two attackers in Hawija, about 150 miles north of Baghdad, according to witnesses. The U.S. military had no immediate confirmation.

The military said Monday a U.S. soldier died after he was wounded in an attack the night before in Baghdad.

The former police chief of the northern city of Mosul was arrested after allegations that he forced allowed insurgents to take over police stations during this month's uprising, Deputy Gov. Khazroun Gouran said Monday.

Brig. Gen. Mohammed Kheir Barhani was arrested Sunday by Kurdish militia in northern Irbil, where he fled after he was fired in the wake of the uprising.

Officers see need for bigger force in Iraq

By BRADLEY GRAHAM

The Washington Post

BAGHDAD — Senior U.S. military commanders in Iraq say it is increasingly likely they will need a further increase in combat forces to put down remaining areas of resistance in the country.

Convinced that the recent battle for Fallujah has significantly weakened insurgent ranks, commanders here have devised plans to press the offensive into neighborhoods where rebels have either taken refuge after fleeing Fallujah or were already deeply entrenched.

But the forces available for these intensified operations have become limited by the demands of securing Fallujah and overseeing the massive reconstruction effort there — demands that senior U.S. military officers say are likely to tie up a substantial number of Marines and Army troops for weeks.

"What's important is to keep the pressure on these guys now that we've taken Fallujah from them," a high-ranking U.S. military commander said, speaking on condition he not be named because of the sensitivity of the deliberations on adding troops. "We're in the pursuit phase. We have to stay after these guys so they don't get their feet set."

The possibility that additional troops would be required to battle the insurgency in this critical period preceding the Iraqi elections has been signaled for weeks. The Pentagon took an initial step in this direction last month, ordering about 6,500 soldiers in Iraq to extend their tours by up to two months.

"No request [for more troops] has been received" from Central Command, Army Lt. Col. Barry Venable, a Pentagon spokesman, told Stripes Monday.

Troop levels in Iraq "are something that's constantly being looked at, at various levels, Venable said, but President Bush and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld "have stated time and time again that they will give commanders what they ask for," Venable said.

While accelerating the January deployment of the 3rd Infantry Division is "technically possible," it's unlikely, a Pentagon official said Monday, due to the complex logistics of moving such numbers of troops.

Such "perturbations" would be so massive that "it wouldn't be worth it," considering the relatively small amount of time on the ground the division's entry into Iraq would buy commanders, the official said.

With some fresh U.S. forces already arriving in Iraq as part of a long-scheduled rotation, and two more divisions in Iraq by late next month to start operating next month, U.S. military leaders had hoped to avoid further increases.

But over the past week, a closer assessment of the forces needed for the Fallujah recon effort and future offensive operations revealed a gap in desired troop strength, at least over the next two or three months, according to several officers familiar with the issue.

The officers said the exact number of extra troops needed is still being reviewed but estimated it at the equivalent of several battalions, or about 3,000 to 5,000 soldiers. The number of U.S. troops in Iraq fell to nearly 100,000 last spring before rising to 138,000, where it has stayed since the summer.

To boost the current level, military commanders have considered extending the stay of more troops due to rotate out shortly, accelerating the deployment of the 3rd Infantry Division, which is scheduled to start in January. But a third option — drawing all or part of the brigades of the 82nd Airborne Division on emergency standby in the United States — has emerged as increasingly likely.

If airborne units were rushed to Iraq, commanders here said, they likely would not be used in offensive actions being planned, given their lack of heavy armor and their unfamiliarity with the targeted neighborhoods. Rather, they would take over policing and other functions in Baghdad's International Zone. That would free up seasoned units of the 1st Cavalry Division for such actions.

Much of the division's 2nd Brigade, which had been patrolling Baghdad, was shifted to Fallujah for the battle there earlier this month and remains unavailable for action elsewhere. This situation is the cause of much of the pressure for reinforcements.

"We feel that we need to keep the 2nd Brigade out there longer than we had originally thought, so we're not going to have all the flexibility we wanted in December," one senior military officer here said.

To further bolster U.S. forces in the short term, commanders are considering extending the scheduled departure of the 2nd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division, which has been assigned to the Kirkuk area.

Stripes reporter Lisa Burgess contributed to this report from the Pentagon.

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By STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WILSON, Iraq — Spoiled fruit, dead bread, stale snail mail.

Life isn't always so good for troops stuck at the end of a long supply line.

That's where soldiers from Troop C of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment found themselves when they arrived last March at FOB Wilson, a little camp just south of Tikrit.

Everything they needed to live and fight a war — food, water, truck parts, ammunition, mail, toilet paper, and Stars and Stripes, to name a few — had to travel by truck through a long supply chain. It

snaked from the seaport in Kuwait through hubs in Tikrit and Balad to the squadron headquarters at Forward Operating Base MacKenzie before reaching Wilson.

Furthermore, not everything requested was making the entire journey to Wilson, with some items disappearing along the way.

"It's no one's fault," said Capt. Paul Krattiger, 31, of Albuquerque, N.M., the troop commander, "but that's the way the system works."

The leaders quickly realized they'd be short of everything unless they figured out the system.

First, Capt. Dan Baldi, Troop C's executive officer, and the noncommissioned officer-in-charge at the motor pool, Sgt. 1st

Class Brian Hanson, climbed in their trucks and visited nearby bases before the 4th Infantry Division units that preceded them went home. They snagged hundreds of leftover parts the 4th ID didn't want to haul home.

"The parts were there — you just had to do the legwork to go get them," said Baldi, 25, of New Milford, Conn.

Then they visited the logistics hub at Forward Operating Base Speicher in Tikrit — only 15 miles away, but three links up the supply chain.

They made friends with the soldiers from the support battalions who pushed out the mail, the food, the newspapers. Could they set aside C Troop's stuff if someone came to pick it up? Sure, no problem.

"We've tried to cut out the middleman," Baldi said.

Mail delivery time from the United States dropped from two weeks to one week. Stars and Stripes was a day or two old instead of a week old. Fruits and vegetables arrived still fresh.

Troop leaders say twisting the supply tail has paid dividends in morale. Of course, it means assembling a small convoy of trucks once a week for the half-hour run to Speicher. In a way, it's a tribute to the flexibility of the Army system — and the ingenuity of the soldiers who have to live with that system.

"It works," said Hanson, 36, of Maquoketa, Iowa. "We make it work."

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.estripes.osd.mil



Photos courtesy of Nicole Smith

Sgt. Nicole Smith, of the 121st Signal Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, holds the quilt she created during her off time in Iraq that commemorates those who worked there. One side of the quilt, left, has more than 100 panels; the other side, right, is signed by hundreds of soldiers who have been stationed in Iraq. The quilt was sold on eBay for \$9,500. That money will go to a 1st ID charity.

War quilt raises money for 1st ID charity

By STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

TIKRIT, Iraq — A 1st Infantry Division soldier has auctioned off a quilt she sewed while serving in Iraq, raising money for a 1st ID charity.

Sgt. Nicole Smith, of the 121st Signal Battalion from Kitzingen, Germany, cut, pieced together, sewed and ironed the quilt between June and September while deployed to the division's headquarters in Tikrit, according to a 1st ID news release. She got some help from her mother in Marysville, Pa., and from other soldiers and some Iraqis who created some of the panels.

"I had planned on making the quilt before I came to Iraq," Smith said in an Army news release. "I wanted this to be a piece of history and something different, something a soldier made."

The 7-by-7 quilt included more than 100 panels, for each of the division's component units currently in Iraq as well as signature squares from senior officers and noncommissioned officers, Smith stated in an article on her Web site: www.geocities.com/gikendra/memorialquilt.html.

According to information on the eBay Web site, www.ebay.com, the auction began Nov. 1 and ended on Nov. 11, Veterans Day. The quilt sold for \$9,500.

A 1st ID spokesman said via e-mail that John and Karen Wilson of Sonora, Texas, bought the quilt, after taking contributions from at least 25 members of their community. They plan to keep it for a time, then auction it and challenge other communities to do the same thing.

The proceeds of the auction will benefit the 1st Infantry Division Foundation, a tax-exempt, nonprofit charity based in Pennsylvania, Smith said on her Web site. Created in 1966 during the Vietnam War, its purpose is to offer college scholarship money to the children of 1st ID soldiers killed in action.

More than 50 children have lost a 1st ID parent during the Iraq war.

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.estripes.osd.mil

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Sunday, at least 1,221 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 946 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is four higher than the Defense Department's tally, which was last updated Friday at 10 a.m. EDT.

The British military has reported 73 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,083 U.S. military members have died, according to the military's numbers. At least 837 deaths resulted from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ None reported.
The latest identifications reported by the military:
■ None reported.

Bomb injures soldier

KABUL, Afghanistan — Militants detonated a bomb near a U.S. patrol in eastern Afghanistan on Monday, injuring one American soldier and sparking a gunbattle in which one insurgent died, the military said.

The skirmish occurred near Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province, where weekend American raids on suspected al-Qaida compounds left four people dead.

Gunmen opened fire on the patrol after the detonation of the homemade bomb, a military statement said.

The injured soldier was treated and returned to duty, it said.

From The Associated Press

Photos from the Front

Presented by Stars and Stripes Advertising & AIG Europe



ABOVE Sgt. Rachel Campbell, left, a member of the 159th Medical Company in Wiesbaden, Germany, helps members of the 325th Field Surgical Team at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, remove Lance Col. Aaron Grossman of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter last month. Grossman clutches his combat boot that was shredded by an improvised explosive device. Military officials say that almost every day a medical evacuation is needed somewhere across Afghanistan.

RUSTY BAKER/U.S. MARINES

LEFT Marine Cpl. Jason Bortas, an avionics technician with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773 operating out of Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, tests the circuits of an AH-1W Super Cobra. Most of the Marines maintaining the AH-1W Super Cobra and UH-1N Iroquois "Huey" series helicopters being flown in Afghanistan weren't even born when the "birds" they work on entered service.

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IN THE WORLD

Bush arrives in Colombia for anti-drug talks

BY JENNIFER LOVEN
The Associated Press

CARTAGENA, Colombia — President Bush arrived in this coastal city Monday to highlight the benefits of American drug-fighting aid in Colombia and boost a conservative Latin American leader.

Bush was greeted by Colombian Foreign Minister Carolina Barco and then stepped into a limousine with his wife, Laura.

U.S. Navy commandos, armed with assault rifles and peering through binoculars, patrolled in rubber boats off Cartagena, where Bush's meeting with Colombian President Alvaro Uribe was to take place.

Colombian Navy Capt. Nelson Fernandez said the United States would take control of security at the meeting site, a decision that had been reached before a dispute arose over Bush's security at a summit in Chile over the weekend.

Bush's four-hour stay marks the final stop of a three-day Latin American trip. Uribe told Colombian radio he intends to discuss continued U.S. aid to fight rebels and drug trafficking under Plan Colombia, which expires next year.

"It is very important that we are clear that we can't leave this task halfway completed," Uribe said Monday.

Uribe also said any free trade agreement must be fair to both countries, especially to Colombia's agricultural sector.

Briefing reporters on Air Force One before it landed in Cartagena, a senior Bush administration official said there is no commitment that Plan Colombia would be renewed. But the official suggested that Colombia would continue to get at least the same amount of aid, or an even more assistance that's restructured.

Under a cloudless sky, Colombian soldiers deployed along Cartagena's Caribbean shore stood atop the city's ancient ramparts as helicopters clattered overhead. Colombian police officers, with links of machine-gun bullets dangling from the shoulders, searched vehicles entering the city.

"It seems that all the security forces of the country have come here," remarked Jennifer Herrera, 27, a supermarket worker.

Bush, for his part, lauded Colombia.

"Colombia is making progress in the fight against terrorists who traffic in illegal drugs," Bush said Saturday in a radio address previewing the visit. "America is standing with the Colombian government to oppose the drug trade that destroys lives in our countries and threatens the stability of our hemisphere."

That very drug trade — and the deadly Marxist insurgent groups that control it — led to extraordinary security measures for Bush's visit.

About 15,000 Colombian security forces, backed by combat helicopters, radars on the lookout for

hostile planes or missiles, and submarines and battle ships prowling the waters, were deployed to protect the American president.

Despite the relative peace of the former Spanish port compared with other parts of the coun-

try, Bush and Uribe weren't going into the walled city; they were meeting at a colonial estate on an island just off the coast. Officials even banned the sale of alcoholic drinks for 24 hours and gave workers the day off.

Washington has given billions

in U.S. military aid for Colombia to combat cocaine production and the leftist rebels that finance themselves through drug trafficking, kidnapping and extortion.

White House aides hinted in advance of the trip that, as Uribe hopes, more money could be in

the cards.

Under the Plan Colombia program, the United States gives Colombian forces training, equipment and intelligence to root out drug traffickers and destroy coca crops.

Kim Housse of The Associated Press contributed to this story from Cartagena.



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Ukraine's presidential race contested

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — With nearly all ballots counted, Ukraine's prime minister retained his narrow lead Monday in the bitterly contested presidential election, which European monitors said was marred by official interference, while the Western-leaning opposition leader called for mass protests against alleged fraud.

The Ukrainian Elections Commission said Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich had 49.42 percent to

Viktor Yushchenko's 46.70 percent, with 99.38 percent of pre-

cincts counted. Earlier partial results showed Yanukovich less than one percentage point ahead.

But an exit poll, conducted by anonymous questionnaires under a program funded by several Western governments including the United States, gave Yushchenko 54 percent of the vote to Yanukovich's 43 percent. Another poll had put Yushchenko ahead by 49.4 to 45.9 percent, the Interfax news agency reported.

Observers from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and NATO criticized the balloting.

"This election did not meet a considerable number of international standards for democratic elections," said Bruce George, who led the observers.

Yushchenko, addressing a crowd of some 10,000 people in Kiev's main Independence Square, called on his supporters

to set up tent camps in central Kiev, and many tents had already gone up, blocking traffic.

"We will not leave this place until we win," Yushchenko said, wearing a scarf in his campaign color, orange.

The city council of Ukraine's capital called on the country's parliament not to recognize the results of the presidential elections, a spokeswoman said Monday.

The move put Kiev on a growing list of major cities rebelling against election commission results that showed Yanukovich narrowly beating Yushchenko.



Yushchenko

Iran suspends nuke activities

By ALI AKBAR DAREINI

The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran has suspended uranium enrichment and all related activities, state-run radio reported Monday, honoring an agreement with Europe designed to head off possible U.N. sanctions.

"To build confidence and in line with implementing the Paris Agreement, Iran suspended uranium enrichment (and related activities) as of today," said the brief radio announcement.

In Vienna, the head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency said the suspension appeared confirmed.

"I think pretty much everything has come to a halt," Mohamed ElBaradei, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, told reporters.

ElBaradei said he expected to have a definitive ruling by Thursday on whether Iran has honored its pledge — made earlier this month — to freeze activities that can be used in energy programs — but also as make nuclear weapons.

The United States accuses Iran

of secretly pursuing nuclear weapons and has pushed the international community to take a hard line. Secretary of State Colin Powell said last week that Washington has intelligence indicating Iran is trying to fit missiles to carry nuclear weapons.

While not prohibited from enrichment under the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, Iran has been under intense pressure to agree to at least a freeze — as if not to scrap its program — as a way of reducing international suspicions.

Iran, which insists its program is peaceful, has said the suspension will be brief, voluntary, and contingent on what Europe does next. Iranian hard-liners have accused the government of sacrificing Iran's rights by agreeing to suspend enrichment.

Under the agreement, reached through negotiations held in Paris with Britain, France and Germany, a working committee would be formed within weeks to define what economic, technological, security and nuclear cooperation Europe will provide. It will report within three months.

Powell sees new opportunity for Mideast peace

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli leaders told Secretary of State Colin Powell on Monday that they will do their utmost to allow Palestinian elections to take place, including easing travel restrictions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In a sign of improving ties after

four years of Mideast fighting, Israeli officials also said they are willing to renew talks with the Palestinians on some issues, including security, and to coordinate the aftermath of Israel's planned withdrawal from Gaza and parts of the West Bank in 2005.

Israel had refused to negotiate with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Arafat's death Nov. 11 provided a "moment of opportunity that should not be lost," Powell said.

He told Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom that the United States wants to seize the moment, and to make sure Palestinian presidential elections are held Jan. 9, as planned.

It's More Than a Battlefield

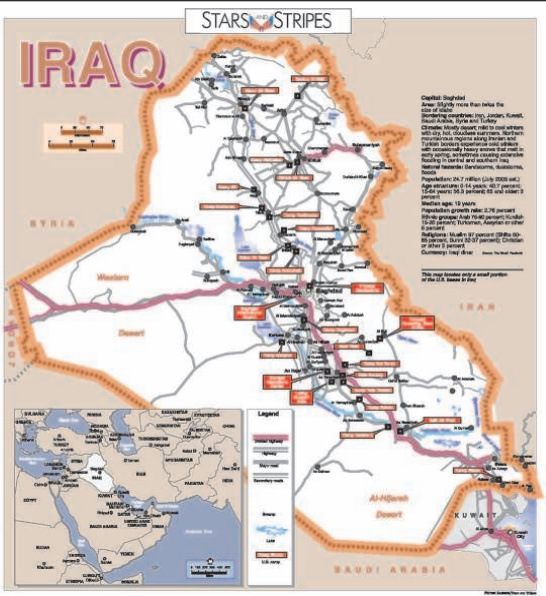
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Inserted in STARS AND STRIPES ON Thursday, November 18 (Germany & Europe) and Monday, November 29 (Italy & Turkey)

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IN THE STATES

FBI: Most hate crimes in '03 racially driven

BY CURT ANDERSON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There were 7,400 hate crimes in the United States last year, more than half of them motivated by racial prejudice most often against black people, the FBI reported Monday.

Hate crimes motivated by anti-black racial bias totaled 2,548 in 2003, more than double such crimes against all other racial

groups combined. There were 3,150 black victims in these cases, including four who were murdered, according to the annual FBI report.

The overall total of 7,489 hate crimes reported in 2003 was slightly above the number reported in 2002. Nearly two-thirds of the crimes involved in such cases are intimidation, vandalism or property destruction.

But there are also hundreds of violent crimes, including 14 murders. There were

more than 2,700 assaults, 444 bias-related robberies, burglaries and thefts, and 34 arson incidents.

The report shows that crimes categorized as anti-Islamic remained at about the same level in 2003 — 149 crimes — as the year before. There had been a spike in such crimes immediately after the 2001 terror attacks, helping drive the overall hate crime number much higher that year.

By far the most hate crimes based on religion were directed at Jews, with 927 incidents in 2003, about the same as in 2002.

The report also found more than 1,200 hate crimes based on sexual orientation, including 783 against gay men. That included six murders.

The FBI hate crimes report is drawn from information submitted by more than 11,900 law enforcement agencies around the country.

Scott Peterson penalty phase postponed until Nov. 30

BY BRIAN SKOLFF

The Associated Press

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — The judge in the Scott Peterson murder trial denied defense motions Monday for a new jury and a new venue, and rescheduled the penalty phase of the case to begin Nov. 30.

The penalty phase had been set to begin Monday, 10 days after he was found guilty of first-degree murder for killing Laci Peterson and second-degree murder for killing her fetus. Jurors must choose between a life sentence or execution.

"We're going to have to go with this jury," Judge Alfred A. Delacai said, rejecting defense claims that the ousting of two jurors after deliberations began would taint the outcome.

As for moving the case elsewhere, the judge said it would be

impossible. "Where could I send this case in the state of California that hasn't been inundated with the media coverage?"

Jurors are expected to hear testimony much more laden with emotion than they did during the five-month guilt phase of his trial.

A delay was possible because defense lawyers filed a motion last week seeking to have a new jury seated in another county to weigh the sentence. The lawyers claim San Mateo County is too prejudiced against Peterson for this jury to be impartial. The judge planned to review the mo-

tion Monday morning.

The penalty phase is like a miniature trial, absent most of the typical rules of evidence. Unlike the guilt phase of a trial, it allows jurors to hear pleas for leniency and heartfelt recollections of the victim.

This phase will begin with opening statements from both sides, followed by testimony from

friends and family members and closing arguments, before the jurors are once again sequestered for deliberations.

"Witnesses are pretty much allowed to say whatever they want," said Robert Talbot, a University of San Francisco School of Law professor who has observed the trial. "Laci's family will be talking about the impact on their

lives without Laci there and not having a grandchild. The Petersons are going to attempt to show there is something of value in him that shouldn't be destroyed by the death penalty."

Talbot said defense lawyers also are allowed to "argue lingering doubt," playing to jurors who may still be somewhat uncertain about the prosecution's case.



Peterson

jury seated in another county to weigh the sentence. The lawyers claim San Mateo County is too prejudiced against Peterson for this jury to be impartial. The judge planned to review the mo-

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5 dead in dispute over Wis. hunting spot

BY JOSHUA FREED
The Associated Press

BIRCHWOOD, Wis. — A young deer hunter who apparently intruded on private property killed five other hunters who had been staying in a nearby cabin and wounded three more during the opening weekend of deer season, authorities said.



Vang

A 36-year-old man was arrested Sunday afternoon when he came out of the woods, sheriff's officials said. Two of the hunters were in critical condition Monday.

Deputy Jake Hodgkinson identified the suspect as Chai Vang, but would give no details. Vang is from St. Paul, Minn., said Paul Schnell, a spokesman for the St. Paul police department.

The shooting started when two hunters returning to their rural

cabin saw the suspect in one of their hunting platforms in a tree, Chief Deputy Tim Zeigle said. Hunters often build platforms in trees to be able to view prey and shoot from a high angle.

Both of those hunters were wounded and one of them radioed friends at the nearby cabin. Other members of their group responded and they also were shot, he said.

"It's absolutely nuts. Why? Over sitting in a tree stand?" asked Zeigle.

Zeigle said the suspect was "chasing after them and killing them," with a SKS 7.62 mm semi-automatic rifle, a common hunting weapon. Wisconsin's state-wide deer gun hunting season started Saturday and lasts for nine days.

About 20 shots were fired but it was unclear if any of the hunters had fired at the suspect or who might have shot first, Zeigle said. There was just one gun among the eight people killed or wounded, he said.

The dead included a teenage boy and a woman, and a father and son, Zeigle said. Some of the victims were shot more than

once.

Authorities found two bodies near each other and the others were scattered over 100 yards.

The suspect, who did not have a compass, got lost in the woods and two other hunters, who didn't know about the shootings, helped him find his way out, Zeigle said.

The man was arrested when he emerged from the woods and a Department of Natural Resources officer recognized the deer license on his back from a description given by one of the shooting victims, Zeigle said.

The man was out of ammunition, he said.

Two of the injured hunters were in critical condition Monday. A third was in stable condition.

Hunter Bill Wagner, 72, was about two miles away near Deer Lake with a party of about 20 other hunters when they heard sirens, planes and helicopters and discovered roads in the area had been barricaded.

"When you're hunting you don't expect somebody to try to shoot you and murder you," Wagner said. "You have no idea who is coming up to you."



A police officer interviews witnesses near the scene where a dispute among deer hunters over a tree stand in northwestern Wisconsin erupted in a series of shootings that left five people dead and three injured Sunday near Hayward, Wis. The alleged gunman, a man from the Twin Cities area, was later arrested at the Rusk and Sawyer County line, according to Sawyer County sheriff's officials.

Bush, GOP prepare another bid for intelligence reform bill

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush and Republican congressional leaders are preparing another bid in December to overrule conservative Republican op-

position and pass an intelligence community overhaul designed as a response to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"When I get home, I look forward to getting it done," Bush told a news conference Sunday

after an economic summit in Santiago, Chile.

He promised to work with Republican leaders in Congress who are preparing to return Dec. 6 for another try.

Blocked by resistance from two

committee chairmen and conservative Republicans in the House of Representatives, lawmakers turned back a last-minute chance Saturday to pass the stalled legislation to create a new national intelligence director and national

counterterrorism center. Based on the Sept. 11 commission recommendations, the overhaul is supposed to help the intelligence community track terrorist threats and was one of the biggest legislative priorities of this year.

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Pre-9/11 terrorism memo

PHOENIX — The FBI agent who wrote a memo warning that terrorists were training at flight schools before the Sept. 11 attacks said concerns over racial profiling may have prevented officials from acting on his intelligence.

Ken Williams' findings in his now-famous July 2001 memo were based on investigations of Arizona aviation students tied to al-Qaida. At the time, he recommended the State Department coordinate with the FBI to provide information on flight students from Middle Eastern countries.

Three die in Houston jet crash

HOUSTON — All three people aboard a private jet died Monday morning when it clipped a light pole and crashed a minute away from landing in a thick fog at Houston's Hobby Airport. The jet had been due to pick up former President Bush as a passenger, his office said.

The jet was approaching the runway when a wing clipped a light pole along the heavily traveled Sam Houston Tollway. The aircraft crashed just south of the tollway in a southeast Houston field, said Roger Smith, a spokesman for the Houston Airport System.

Robert Randall, operations manager with the plane's owner, Jet Place Inc. of Tulsa, Okla., would not name the downed flight's crew but said they were two male pilots and a female flight attendant.

Trump's casino business in trouble

NEWARK, N.J. — Donald Trump's casino empire filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection after months of negotiations with bondholders over restructuring a crushing \$1.8 billion debt.

Trump Hotels & Casino Resorts and numerous related operations filed for protection from its creditors Sunday in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Camden, N.J.

In a telephone interview Monday, Trump denied the bankruptcy was a setback. The Chapter 11 filing frees a company from the threat of creditors' lawsuits while it reorganizes its finances.

"I don't think it's a failure, it's a success," Trump said.

From wire reports

Camden, N.J., rated most dangerous city

BY BRUCE SHIPKOWSKI

The Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — Camden has been named the nation's most-dangerous city, snatching the top spot from Detroit, according to a company's annual ranking based on crime statistics.

Officials in Camden, which was ranked third last year, downplayed the dubious designation Sunday, saying many steps have already been taken to reduce crime in the city.

"We must give our people jobs, training and opportunity," said City Councilman Ali Sloan-El, who pointed out that Camden's poverty is an important contributing factor to its high crime rate.

Atlanta, St. Louis and Gary, Ind., rounded out the top five in the most dangerous city rankings,

which was to be released Monday by Morgan Quitno Corp.

The company publishes "City Crime Rankings," an annual reference book that will be published next month. Detroit fell to second in this year's list.

However, company president Scott Morgan told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch that he had been unaware that St. Louis police omitted 5,760 crimes from their 2003 crime data.

Provided with the correct data, Morgan found that St. Louis would have switched places with Atlanta.

The news wasn't all bleak for New Jersey.

The state's Brick Township was rated the second-safest city for the third straight year, behind only Newton, Mass., while the Garden State's Dover Township

was ranked tenth. The other communities in the top five were Amherst, N.Y. — ranked as the safest city for the past four years — followed by Mission Viejo, Calif., and Clarkstown, N.Y.

The rankings look at the rate for six crime categories: Murder,

rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and auto theft. It compares 350 cities with populations of 75,000 or more that reported crime data to the FBI. Final 2003 statistics, released by the FBI in October, were used to determine the rankings.

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

'For Sale by Owner'

Knight Ridder Tribune

Typically, most people go with a real estate broker to handle a home sale. But some homeowners opt to skip the selling agent route and sell a home themselves.

The "For Sale by Owner" approach has some positive benefits, including saving on real estate fees. Yet, it's also hardly a casual undertaking.

If you've been thinking selling a home yourself, it might be worthwhile to check out some of the "For Sale by Owner" advice available on the Web. Here are

just a few sites with useful insights and information:

■ **Bankrate.com.** Discusses pros and cons of "For Sale by Owner" homes.

■ **eHow.com.** Contains steps, tips and warnings about home sales by owner.

■ **For Sale by Owner.com.** Guide with eight steps to selling a home.

■ **Homes101.net.** Provides cautionary evaluation of "For Sale by Owner" approach.

■ **Kiplinger, www.kiplinger.com.** Offers "For Sale by Owner" advice and the potential money saving involved.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro	\$1.398
British pound	1.959
Japanese yen (Nov. 22)	101.00
South Korean won (Nov. 22)	1,041.00

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
Canada (Dollar)	1.1299
Denmark (Krone)	5.38
Euro (Pound)	6.20
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7707
Hungary (Forint)	189.33
Iceland (Krona)	66.655
Israel (Sheqel)	4.3255
Japan (Yen)	103.08
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2946
Norway (Krone)	5.89
Philippines (Peso)	56.27
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	2.59
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Switzerland (Franc)	1.10
Thailand (Baht)	40.16
Turkey (Lira)	1,410.000

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are inter-bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

London close	
Gold	\$447.60
Silver	\$7.57

INTEREST RATES

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Discount rate	1.00
Federal funds market rate	2.00
3-month bill	2.14
30-year bond	4.89

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

University gets \$44 million for diabetes research

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — The founder of an information technology company and his diabetic wife are giving \$44 million to the University of Michigan for creation of a diabetes research center.

The donation, being announced Monday, comes from Bill Brehm of McLean, Va., a university graduate, and his wife, Dee.

Brehm, 75, founded SRA International, an information science company in Fairfax, Va. His wife, 74, has Type 1, or insulin-dependent, diabetes.

"We want to do something for the new diabetics, for these babies and infants just diagnosed," Dee Brehm said. "I don't want them to endure the long-term regimen I've had."

From wire reports

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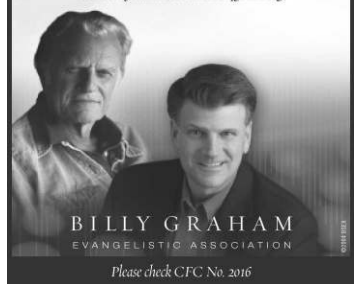
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Quick Trips

A mammoth collection

Darmstadt museum displays grand dukes' treasures

BY MICHAEL ABRAMS

Stars and Stripes

The thing I remember most about my first visit to the Hesse State Museum in Darmstadt, Germany, was the a coat of fur in a display case on a wall. It was the skin of the last wolf in Hesse, shot near Lorsch in 1841.

That visit was decades ago, but for some reason that wolf has always stuck in my mind.

It is not like there are not plenty of other things to see at the Hessisches Landesmuseum, as it is called in German. Then and now, the museum is a conglomeration of natural history and art exhibits first collected by the grand dukes of Hesse in the 17th century.

The museum got its start when, in 1820, Grand Duke Ludwig I of Hesse endowed his private collection to the state. Over the next 18 decades, the collection has never stopped.

While this makes for quite a hodgepodge of things to see, it ensures there is something for everybody at the museum.

Children are enthralled by the whale skeleton hanging from the ceiling of the ground floor zoology exhibit, and by the giant mastodons in the paleontology exhibit on the floor above.

Grown-ups will probably be drawn more to the art exhibits spread over the four floors of the museum, and all will likely be intrigued by the evolution-of-man display with its lifelike models of what prehistoric man might have looked like.

The Landesmuseum is especially proud of its collection of fossils from the nearby Messel Pit Fossil Site, which is on the World Heritage List, and is one of the richest sites for fossils from the Eocene period.

Just as a sampling of the variety available, here are some of the museum's collections: art



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

The visitor comes face to face with a mammoth and its youngster at the Hessisches Landesmuseum in Darmstadt, Germany.

nouveau and art deco furniture; jewelry and porcelain; glass painting from 900-1900; cork models of ancient Rome and prehistoric and early history of Europe, all in the basement.

Along with zoology, there is art from 1250 to 1550, medieval crafts and musical and physics instruments on the ground floor.

The second floor has geology, mineralogy and paleontology exhibits, while the third floor has 19th century art, works by German artist Joseph Beuys and art from 1550 to 1800. In January or February a new collection of 20th century sculptures is due to open.

The top floor contains the graphics collection and room for temporary exhibits.

But that's not all. In 1984 a new wing was added to hold the museum's 20th-century art. Only 20 years old, it is soon to be torn down to make room for a new, bigger wing to hold its ever-growing collection.

There are few museums in

Germany that still have an interdisciplinary collection like the Hessisches Landesmuseum, where you can learn about the history of art, culture and nature all in one stop.

And the only one where you can see the last wolf in Hesse.

E-mail: Michael.Abrams@starsandstripes.osd.mil



In the Hessisches Landesmuseum's collection of art from 1250-1550 is this intricate wood statue of John the Baptist.



Above: A model of how a Neanderthal might have looked, as envisioned at the evolution of man exhibit in the Hessisches Landesmuseum.

Below: A diorama of animals in the Northern Hemisphere.



On the QT



The Landesmuseum is in downtown Darmstadt, north of the Schloss (palace), just outside of the pedestrian zone at Friedensplatz 1. There is no free parking downtown on weekdays.

The entrance to the Schloss parking garage is right in front of the museum. It costs 1.50 euros per hour, but is closed Sundays.

The closest parking open Sundays is Luisenplatz, also 1.50 euros per hour.

On bus lines F, H, K and L and streetcar lines 3 and 9, get off at Schloss; get off at Luisenplatz for streetcar lines 4, 6, 7 and 8.



10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays, and Thursday to Saturday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays; and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays and German holidays. Museum closed Mondays and Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1, 2005.



Admission is 2.50 euros for adults, 1 euro for children, and 5 euros for a family ticket. Free admission daily after 4 p.m. Some times extra admission is charged for special temporary exhibits.



There is a café in the foyer that offers drinks, cakes and snacks. You don't have to pay museum admission to enter.



The museum's German-language Web site is www.lhmd.de

—MICHAEL ABRAMS



PETER JAGGER/Stars and Stripes

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CIB: Risk deserves reward

In the civilian world, a similar debate reignites every year at the close of a corporation's fiscal year. Who should be recognized for outstanding contributions?

In most companies, there is a sales organization analogous to the infantry. Salesmen are the ones on the front lines meeting the competition (enemy) and defeating them, or being defeated. All other company functions — operations, development, manufacturing, etc. — are, by definition, supporting the sales efforts.

Some companies take sales overachievers to Hawaii. Every year, people from other disciplines object. The normal response from management is: "If you want to be in sales, make the choice and take the risk."

The basic question is, do we allow participants from other fields to earn a Combat Infantryman Badge? How then? By nomination? By qualification? Or, do we instead reward the heritage itself? It is, after all, called the Combat Infantryman Badge and is awarded to infantrymen who have been in combat.

If an infantryman saves a life by properly applying first aid, is he awarded the Combat Medical Badge? If a crew chief on an aircraft bails out and fights his way to safety, is he awarded the Parachutist Badge? Yes, those people faced the same perils and showed some of the skills, but not by initial choice and without preparation.

I believe the CIB is for those who made a choice to be warriors first, and endured all the years of sacrifice, waiting, training, and making themselves ready. It is their award exclusively. If you want a CIB, pick up your weapon and follow me, the Airborne Infantry.

Spc. Wesley Gilling

Tal Afar, Iraq

Fight for team, not badge

I am an infantryman and have been one for eight years. I am writing about all the

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fuss about noninfantry military occupational specialties serving with infantry units and not being able to receive a Combat Infantryman Badge. I can say that, from what I've learned from many friends and acquaintances in other MOSs, many of them don't care to do our jobs. They have voiced dissent toward the infantry and the level of intensity involved in our training. The hardships faced by other MOSs are also difficult, but they each differ in intensity.

I would like to quote part of an address given by Gen. George S. Patton to the newly created 3rd Army during World War II: "They were part of a team (other MOSs). Without them the fight would have been lost. All the links in the chain pulled together and that chain became unbreakable."

We are all part of a team that works together. Be proud to be part of that team. Just because you don't rate a CIB doesn't mean you are any less of a soldier. The CIB was meant for the common infantryman or grunt. We chose to be 11Bs and reserve the right for the CIB to be exclusively for the infantryman. Let us keep what

makes us unique within our great team, the U.S. Army.

Sgt. A. Cruz
 Camp Manhattan, Iraq

Don't glorify tobacco

Regarding "Photo leads to unwanted attention for Marine" (Nov. 15): Pin-ups of a Marine smoking during a break in action as a battle-hardened warrior is the dumbest thing the command can do. Why don't we all give our soldiers rat poison to give to our kids back home instead?

When command promotes or attempts to place a mascot labeled on a soldier with tobacco products, it sends a message. It is the wrong message. I think the American youth deserves an apology when a photo is used and product labels to prove that the product is a known killer of thousands of veterans. Tobacco kills; its costs are as great as the costs of wars.

Instead of generals making posters, they should be giving warnings about healthy choices. That is why we do physical training. That is why we restrict food intake. Don't you think it's time to think about the stupidity of smoking?

Capt. Darren W. Guillaume
 Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

Good work in Habbaniya

Recently I came across the article "Chaplain's mission is to restore desecrated British cemetery in Iraq" (Sept. 15) of U.S. Army Capt. Randy Robison, a chaplain serving in Habbaniya, Iraq. My father was stationed in Habbaniya 1955-57 when I was in my early teens, and I still have very vivid memories of the camp and its surrounding areas.

I would like to express my admiration for Capt. Robison, and wish him the best of luck with his restoration work. Let's hope and pray that Iraq will soon be at peace with the rest of the world, and that we, maybe one day we will get to revisit Habbaniya.

Robert Tuerlesky
 Chippican, England

Exterminate spam or the Internet dies

Sam Jose Mercury News

A tougher internet spam law ... won't get rid of all spam.

The news coming out of a government-sponsored anti-spam forum earlier this month was depressing. Family-friendly technology purports said the latest industry-led initiative to fight spam won't work.

Lawmakers heading into the 109th Congress should take note. After all, when Congress enacted the meek CAN-SPAM Act of 2003, the first federal anti-spam legislation, members promised they would pass tougher legislation if the problem wasn't solved.

That was a year ago. Since then, a few things have happened.

Spam has continued to grow. The Federal Trade Commission, which was chartered by the CAN-SPAM Act to study the feasibility of a "do not spam" registry, said the registry was not workable. Instead, the FTC said the solution to spam lies in industry efforts to create a technology that would help verify the identity of e-mail senders.

That's the very technology that experts said will work. The reason is that spam-

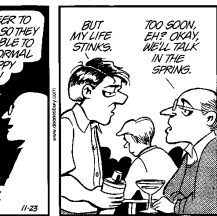
mers are already a step ahead of the industry.

A tougher anti-spam law, such as a simple ban on all unsolicited e-mail ads, won't get rid of all spam. But it would be a powerful tool for law enforcement. Hundreds of thousands of the freeloaders and scam artists who make their living off of unwanted, unsavory and often unlawful spam.

Left unchecked, the tidal wave of spam will continue to grow, bringing with it just what annoying e-mails, but also viruses, worms and malicious programs that are at the root of identity theft, credit-card fraud and other crimes. And one by one, online users will lose confidence in the Internet as a safe medium for communications and commerce.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



OPINION

A writer's 'war crime,' a Marine's 'survival'

The rule of the thumb for the last century or so has been that for a guerrilla force to remain viable, it must inflict seven casualties on the forces of the government for each casualty it sustains.

Jack Kelly



says former Canadian army officer John Thompson, managing director of the MacKenzie Institute, a think tank that studies global conflicts.

By that measure, the resistance in Iraq had a bad week (last week, American and Iraqi government troops killed at least 1,200 fighters in Fallujah, and captured 1,100 more. Those numbers will grow as mop-up operations continue.

These casualties were inflicted at a cost (so far) of 43 coalition dead (38 Americans), and just over 500 wounded, of whom about a quarter have returned to duty.

"That kill ratio would be phenomenal in any [kind of] battle, but in an urban environment, it's revolutionary," said retired Army Lt. Col. Ralph Peters, perhaps America's most respected writer on military strategy. "The rule has been that [in urban combat] the attacking force would suffer between a quarter and a third of its strength in casualties."

The victory in Fallujah was also remarkable for its speed, Peters said. Speed was necessary, he said, "because you are fighting not just the terrorists, but a hostile global media."

Fallujah ranks up there with Iwo Jima, Inchon and Hue as one of the greatest triumphs of American arms, though you'd have a hard time discerning that from what you read in the newspapers.

The swift capture of Fallujah is taxing the imagination of Arab journalists — and sadly — our own. How does one portray a remarkable American victory as if it were of little consequence, or even a defeat?

For CNN's Walker Rodgers, camped out in front of the main U.S. military hospital in Germany, you do this by emphasizing American casualties.

For The New York Times and The Washington Post, you do this by emphasizing conflict elsewhere in Iraq.

But the news organizations that liken temporary terrorist success in Mosul (the police stations they overran were recaptured the next day) with what happened to the terrorists in Fallujah is false equivalence of the worst kind. If I find a quarter in the street, it doesn't make up for having lost \$1,000 in a poker game the night before.

The resistance has suffered a loss of more than 2,000 combatants, out of a total force estimated by U.S. Central Command at about 5,000 (other estimates are higher) as well as its only secure base in the country. But both the Arab media and ours emphasize that the attack on Fallujah has made a lot of Arabs mad. By this logic, we've killed all the terrorists, they'll be invincible.

"The experience of human history has been the more people you kill, the weaker they get," Thomson noted.

For the Arab and European media, the old standby is to allege American atrocities. In this they have had invaluable assistance



Luis Sinco/Los Angeles Times

A member of Company C of the 1st Marine Battalion, 8th Regiment, conducts mop-up duty at a house in Fallujah, Iraq, on Nov. 13.

from Kevin Sites, a freelancer working for NBC, who filmed a Marine shooting a wounded Iraqi feigning death in a mosque his squad was clearing. Al-Jazeera has been showing the footage around the clock.

The mutilated body of Margaret Hassan, the aid worker kidnapped in Baghdad last month, has been discovered in Fallujah, as have torture chambers.

Residents of Fallujah have been describing a reign of terror by the insurgents. But it is the Marine's alleged "war crime" that is garnering the most attention.

The Marine did the right thing. The terrorist he shot was not a prisoner, was not attempting to surrender, and was not a lawful combatant under the Geneva Conventions. The squad had other rooms to clear, and couldn't afford to leave an enemy in its rear.

The San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News described how Lance Cpl. Jeremy Ailes was shot to death on Nov. 15 by an Iraqi who was "playing possum."

"It's a safety issue, sure and simple," explained former Navy SEAL Matthew Heide. "After assaulting through a target, put a security round in everybody's head."

Journalists quick to judge the Marine are more forgiving when it comes to the terrorists. "They're not bad guys, especially, just people who disagree with us," said MSNBC's Chris Matthews.

And journalists wonder why we are less popular than used car salesmen.

Jack Kelly is the national affairs writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Toledo (Ohio) Blade. A former Marine and Green Beret, he was a deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force in the Reagan administration. His column appears weekly in Stars and Stripes.

Rumsfeld gets his (nonmilitary) man to run Army

DEFENSE SECRETARY Donald Rumsfeld last week won his fight to install his man, Francis Harvey, as secretary of the Army.

In the midst of that and a half war, at a time when the Army is struggling to transform itself and must use extraordinary methods to find enough soldiers to fill the rotations in Iraq, Rumsfeld selected a man who's never served in the military or in government to be the Army's CEO.

Rumsfeld told the man he's passing over for the job acting



Army Secretary Les Brownlee, a retired Army infantry colonel and a highly decorated combat veteran — that he "wanted a businessman" to run the Army. Harvey, a longtime Westinghouse executive, was Rumsfeld's second choice in 18 months of bitter wrangling with some powerful senators.

Rumsfeld's long fight with the senators began May 2003 when he fired Army Secretary Tom White, a retired Army brigadier general, over White's support of then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki (who angered Rumsfeld by saying that several hundred thousand American troops would be needed to occupy Iraq).

When the defense secretary tapped Air Force Secretary James Roche, another defense industry exec and a Navy and government veteran, to take over the Army job, he ran afoul of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

McCain was demanding that the Air Force and Roche hand over internal

e-mails on its plan to lease new airborne tankers from Boeing and when they weren't forthcoming he blocked Roche and all Defense Department civilian nominees.

While all of this was dragging on, the Army was left in the hands of acting secretary Brownlee, who'd spent 18 years on the Hill working for Sen. John Warner, R-Va., and the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Brownlee, who was awarded two Silver Stars for heroism in Vietnam, spent the last three Christmases with American troops in war zones.

Although Brownlee may have been the ideal candidate for the job he was already doing, there was no way Rumsfeld would nominate him. Rumsfeld was angry at how McCain, and more recently Warner, had thwarted his appointment of Roche to run the Army. This time he'd have his way and

his man in that job.

Although the service secretaries are political appointees, they traditionally have been chosen from the ranks of those who've served the country in uniform, preferably in the uniforms of the services they've been picked to run.

Rumsfeld ground down his Hill opponents and got his way in the matter of Harvey.

On Nov. 16, the day Harvey was confirmed as Army secretary, the Pentagon announced the resignation of Air Force Secretary Roche. The guy Rumsfeld originally wanted to run the Army. There was the usual official statement about how Roche had planned to stay only one term and what a wonderful job he'd done.

Roche, another hard-nosed defense industry businessman of the sort the defense secretary seems to like so well, will leave

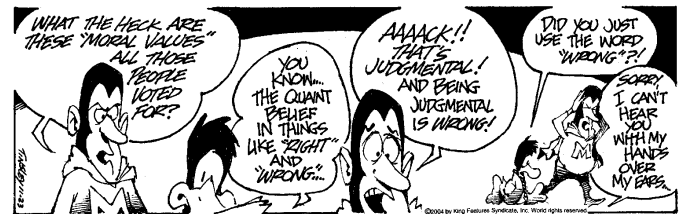
the Pentagon under investigation by the Justice Department for his role in a \$34 billion noncompetitive contract for 100 aerial refueling tankers from Boeing.

The Air Force's chief negotiator of that deal and many others, Darleen Druyun, also negotiated herself a \$250,000-a-year job with Boeing. She's been sentenced to federal prison. The former chief financial officer of Boeing pleaded guilty for his role in hiring Druyun before she retired from the Air Force.

Rumsfeld himself seems secure in his job as secretary of defense for another year, perhaps longer, in the new Bush Cabinet, even though he and the neoconservatives around him bear particular responsibility for failures of both planning and execution in securing and rebuilding Iraq. Joseph Galloway is the senior military correspondent for Knight-Ridder Newspapers and co-author of the national best-seller "We Were Soldiers Once... and Young."

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2004

(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 Stanley	Movie "Borrowed Money"	Dr. Phil	Jocergidy	Nightline	(15) NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup - Ford 400 From Home	30 Minute Meals	Jocergidy
9:30 Saigon-Siamess Cat	(1967) Roman Jones, Hector Elizondo. A single mother agrees to pose as her employer's wife.	(3:46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	Nightly Business Report	Hardball With Chris Matthews	Stripped	Headline News
10:00 Arthur (E)		(3:36) Guiding Light	Advisory Board			Dr. Phil	ESPNNews
10:30 Between the Lions (E)						E News	
11:00 Saigon-Siamess Cat	(10:48) Movie "The Agreement" (1947) Daniel George Pick, Dorothy McGuire, John Garfield.	(17) General Hospital	Headline News	The O'Reilly Factor		The King of Queens	NFL Football New England Patriots at Kansas City Chiefs. From Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Mo.
11:30 Stanley "Up the Apple Tree"		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	CNN Daybreak		Yip! Yip! Show	
12:00 The Explorer						Girlfriends	
12:30 The Wigglers						Charmed "The Three Faces of McBeal"	
13:00 Bob the Builder	Movie "Tootie" (1988) Comedy/Dustin Hoffman. An unemployed actor poses as a woman to land a big role.	Today Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Ben Jovi.	Headline News	Good Morning America		Any Day Now "The Golden Rings"	
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)		ESPNNews	Headline News			ER "A Simple Twist of Fate"	
14:00 Blue's Clues "Thankful"		Teen Kids News (E)	Headline News	The Early Show		Law & Order "Castoff"	
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)			Headline News			The Late Late Show	
15:00 Funniest Home Videos	(12) Movie "Tremors" (1990) Kevin Bacon. Monster and humans develop a friendship as a Nevada desert dweller.	Headline News	The Late Late Show				
15:30 Full House		Headline News	Headline News				
16:00 Pokémon "Tie One On"		Headline News	Headline News				
16:30 Ya-Gi-O! (Part 1 of 2)		Headline News	Headline News				
17:00 Asah! Real Monsters	The Entertainers	Headline News	Headline News				
17:30 Rocket Power	Behind the Scenes	Headline News	Headline News				
18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News	Headline News				
18:30 Rugrats	Movie "The Christmas Carol" (1936) Marjorie Reynolds, John Barrymore. A miserly old man is visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future.	Headline News	Headline News				
19:00 The Proud Family	Movie "The Christmas Carol" (1936) Marjorie Reynolds, John Barrymore. A miserly old man is visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future.	Headline News	Headline News				
19:30 The Amanda Show	Movie "The Christmas Carol" (1936) Marjorie Reynolds, John Barrymore. A miserly old man is visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future.	Headline News	Headline News				
20:00 Everwood "Vegetable State"	Movie "The Christmas Carol" (1936) Marjorie Reynolds, John Barrymore. A miserly old man is visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future.	Headline News	Headline News				
20:30		Headline News	Headline News				
21:00 Sister, Sister "Field Trip"	Movie "The Christmas Carol" (1936) Marjorie Reynolds, John Barrymore. A miserly old man is visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future.	Headline News	Headline News				
21:30 Sister, Sister	Movie "The Christmas Carol" (1936) Marjorie Reynolds, John Barrymore. A miserly old man is visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future.	Headline News	Headline News				
22:00 The Cozy Show	Movie "The Christmas Carol" (1936) Marjorie Reynolds, John Barrymore. A miserly old man is visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future.	Headline News	Headline News				
22:30 Home Improvement	Movie "The Christmas Carol" (1936) Marjorie Reynolds, John Barrymore. A miserly old man is visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future.	Headline News	Headline News				
23:00 Touched by an Angel "Lost in Action"	Movie "The Christmas Carol" (1936) Marjorie Reynolds, John Barrymore. A miserly old man is visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future.	Headline News	Headline News				
23:30		Headline News	Headline News				

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2004

00:00 Hey Arnold!	Movie "Night of the Creeps" (1986) Jason Livy.	11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
00:30 Rocket Power	(1:43) Movie "The Christmas Carol" (1936) Marjorie Reynolds, John Barrymore. A miserly old man is visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future.	11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
1:00 SpongeBob SquarePants		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
1:30 Rugrats		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
2:00 The Proud Family		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
2:30 The Amanda Show		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
3:00 Everwood "Vegetable State"		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
3:30		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
4:00 Sister, Sister "Field Trip"		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
4:30 Sister, Sister		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
5:00 Sesame Street (E)		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
5:30		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
6:00 Barney & Friends (E)		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
6:30 Blue's Clues		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
7:00 Dragon Tales (E)		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
7:30 Bob the Builder		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
8:00 The Wigglers		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
8:30 The Explorer		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
9:00 Stanley "Up the Apple Tree"		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
9:30 Saigon-Siamess Cat		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
10:00 Arthur		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
10:30 Between the Lions (E)		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
11:00 Saigon-Siamess Cat		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
11:30 Stanley "Up the Apple Tree"		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
12:00 The Explorer		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
12:30 The Wigglers		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
13:00 Bob the Builder		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
14:00 Blue's Clues		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
15:00 Funniest Home Videos		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
15:30 Full House		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
16:00 Pokémon		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
16:30 Ya-Gi-O! (Part 2 of 2)		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
17:00 Asah! Real Monsters		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
17:30 Rocket Power		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
18:30 Rugrats		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
19:00 Even Stevens		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
19:30 Kenan & Kel		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
20:00 Gilmore Girls "Sadie, Sadie"		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
20:30		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
21:00 Depress: Next		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
21:30 Depress: Next		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
22:00 The Cozy Show		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
22:30 Home Improvement		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
23:00 Touched by an Angel "Missing in Action"		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
23:30		11:30 Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame

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Bridget is back

Zellweger revives quirky Brit for sequel

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY HOUSTON RUCK
Stars and Stripes

Renée Zellweger signs autographs for fans as she arrives at the British premiere of her new movie "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason" in Leicester Square, London.

BY HANH NGUYEN

Zap2it.com

LOS ANGELES
Three years after starring in "Bridget Jones's Diary," Renée Zellweger found slipping back into the role of the titular British singleton for the sequel challenging beyond the much ballyhooed weight gain.

For "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason," the Texan actress — who has slimmed back down and now sports a brunette hairdo — admits that she had difficulty relearning Bridget's signature quirky way of speaking.

"It was like starting over again," says the actress. "I was terrified of it because it was something that evolved and became very colloquial in a very specific way last time. I had (voice and dialect coach) Barbara Berkery there every day saying, 'No, that was too precise. Slushier, slushier,' because Bridget has kind of a lippy thing that she does."

Despite her struggles re-creating the British accent, Zellweger has won the heart of the island nation for embodying the plucky protagonist.

"I think the truth is if anything we consider Renée Zellweger a national treasure. I do not think that we have given her up to you lot," says director Beeban Kidron to a rousful of American reporters.

"I think that we think that she is English and that she's our treasure."

"Edge of Reason" picks up several weeks after the original "Bridget Jones" left off, with Bridget (Zellweger) enjoying a blissful relationship — complete with many shags — with the very proper lawyer Mark Darcy (Colin Firth). Being Bridget, however, she soon loses her man, fouls up her job and even lands in a Thai prison before she gets her happy ending.

To reprise the critically acclaimed role, Zellweger had to come to terms with Bridget's seemingly desperate actions, especially when, after having only dated six weeks, she demands that Darcy reveal whether or not he'd consider marrying her.

"I think it becomes pretty evident that she knows that she's made a big mistake there. And that not only is it unreasonable, but it probably might have been the catalyst to the end of this relationship for having terrified the man with the outburst," says Zellweger.

"But she never fails to trudge forward and to believe that she's gonna be fine and she always moves on. That's strength to me."

Besides the character work, the petite actress also had physical challenges to meet. The fair-skinned Zellweger pokes fun at herself for her sensitivity to the sun, which became problematic while shooting in Thailand. Although castmate Hugh Grant describes her work ethic as "redoubtable," he was appalled by the lengths she took to protect her skin.

"She's got this thing that she believes the sun will make her skin come up in boils and peel off her bones," Grant explains. "So she's dressed up like Julie Andrews at the beginning of 'The Sound of Music,' like a nun — umbrellas and gloves and everything. It's a nightmare."

Zellweger fared better in Austria's colder climate, where she performed her own skiing stunts. During two snowy sequences, the actress falls out of a ski lift, glides backwards for several feet, skis down a slalom course and ends up skiing straight into the front door of a shop.

The modest actress makes light of her risky behavior, though, and instead praises the cameraman who mimicked each of her stunts — while skiing backwards.

"He was an extreme skier and ... (had) the camera strapped around his torso, that he looked down into and held right here. He never looked up, never," says Zellweger. "He was depending on me to tell him when he was about to be killed, by trees or veering off too far to the edge of the mountain never to be heard from again."

Kidron reveals that the filmmakers had initially hired two stunt doubles for Zellweger's scenes who just weren't convincing on film as the star.

"These people could not embody the Bridget 'oneness,' the Bridget aspiration, the Bridget attempt-and-failure in that body during that sequence," says the director. "The thing about Renée is that she is a proper comedian ... (not only) because of the way she says the words. She's a comedian from the soles of her feet to the top of her head."

Rivera sells newspaper

TV personality and journalist **Geraldo Rivera** has ended his 14-year ownership of the *Two River Times*, selling the weekly newspaper to a couple from Rumson, N.J.

Michael J. Gooch and **Diane Gooch** wouldn't disclose how much they spent to buy the 20,000-circulation newspaper. Diane Gooch has taken over as publisher.

Rivera, who moved out of the Red Bank area several years ago after his divorce, said in a statement Thursday that the newspaper needed "a more connected and locally based hand on the helm than mine."

Gooch is the chairman, chief executive and founder of brokerage company GFI

Group.

Guccione estate sold

The former Hudson Valley estate of Penthouse magazine founder **Bob Guccione** is being sold to

hotelier **Andre Balazs** and actress **Uma Thurman**, according to the property's auctioneer.

George Cole Auctions sold off the contents of Guccione's former summer house at the end of the summer.

Cole, who is also a licensed real estate broker, said Balazs and Thurman attended the auction, expressed interest in the property and have a contract to buy it.

Cole declined to disclose the purchase price, but told the *Daily Freeman* in King-

ston that he expects the closing before Dec. 15.

The 55-acre estate and 16-room mansion in the hamlet of Staatsburg are 60 miles south of Albany.

Guccione sold the property, which he called "The Willows," in February after defaulting on a \$14.5 million loan.

Last year he resigned as chief executive of Penthouse International, three months after the publishing arm of the company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Carrey happy without Prozac

Jim Carrey said on the CBS program "60 minutes" that he is better able to deal with depression now that he lives a life free of Prozac and alcohol.

In an interview for Sunday's broadcast, Carrey said he took Prozac for a long time but the drug didn't cure his depression.

"I had to get off at a certain point because I realized that ... everything is just

OK," he told reporter **Steve Kroft** at his home in Brentwood, Calif.

Even when he was taking Prozac, the depression didn't go away entirely, he says.

"It feels like a low level of despair you live in where you're not getting any answers but you're living OK and you can smile at the office," he said.

Carrey says he still has bouts of depression but he now deals with it without Prozac and alcohol.

"I rarely drink coffee. I am very serious about no alcohol, no drugs," he said. "Life is too beautiful."

Carrey's film credits include "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," "The Mask" and "The Truman Show."

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Rivera



Guccione



Carrey

Blind man accused

NJ ENGLEWOOD — A blind man shot and killed his former girlfriend during an argument about an unpaid telephone bill, prosecutors said.

Robert Cameron was charged with murdering 31-year-old Coleen Garis at his apartment, shooting her several times in the torso, said Bergen County prosecutor John L. Molinelli.

Cameron is blind in one eye and sees only shadows with the other, relatives said. "How could he shoot her so many times?" asked a cousin, Benita Harris.

Another cousin questioned the alleged motive. "Why do you kill somebody over a \$25 phone bill? He wasn't that type of guy, wasn't a street guy," Roy Harris said.

Cameron, 31, was hospitalized after swallowing prescription drugs, and was in critical condition, according to Englewood Hospital and Medical Center. Molinelli does not believe it was a suicide attempt because Cameron could have killed himself with the gun.

Relatives said Cameron lost his vision to diabetes and also suffered from high blood pressure and a heart condition.

Costly prevention tactics

WI MADISON — Local law enforcement agencies spent nearly \$500,000 during Halloween this year. Authorities deployed 100 officers along one of the city's popular State Street in an effort to avoid the Halloween riots of previous years. Luis Yudice, the acting assistant police chief, said he felt he had a mandate from the city to do everything possible to ensure safety. About 450 people were arrested.

Woman, dog killed

CA PITTSBURGH — Tu Thi Tran and her family dog, Rusty, were taking a walk as they did every day when someone driving a Chrysler New Yorker ran them down and took off without stopping or calling for help.

The 79-year-old grandmother was most likely in the crosswalk of the busy street, police said, when the car struck her and the 6-year-old Yorkshire terrier from behind and fled. They both died at the scene.

Tran was taking care of Rusty for her granddaughter, who received the dog as a gift.

Seat belt dispute

FL WEST PALM BEACH — A fatal school bus crash has revived the debate in Florida about whether seat belts should be mandatory — and what kind of protection they provide.

Diana Kautz, a freshman at Royal Palm Beach High School, wasn't wearing a lap belt when her school bus collided with a pickup truck and rolled over last week. She was ejected and killed.

"Just like when we as parents are going to work, we have a lap belt on and a shoulder harness. The same should be available to students on school buses," said Democratic state Rep. Irv Slosberg. His proposed bill last year to require shoulder belts on school buses was never heard.

Palm Beach County School Board members have said they want to review the issue but will wait until an investigation of the crash is complete. At least four other states, including New York



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

and California, require belts in school buses.

Generous pay raise

ME BANGOR — A 400 percent pay hike may sound more than generous, but it's another story when it's the first increase in more than half a century.

Until this month, the annual stipend for the nine members of the Bangor City Council remained at \$400, the same as it was in 1951 when Harry Truman was president and it cost 3 cents to mail a letter and \$1,540 to buy a new Chevrolet.

Thanks to a charter amendment approved by voters three years ago, the stipend has been raised to \$2,000, with an additional \$500 for the council chairman.

The current chairman, Frank Farrington, opposed the increase, which took effect after the Nov. 2 municipal elections.

"I don't think anyone is in this for the money," he said.

"You serve because you want to help make your community better. That's the kind of community Bangor is."

Stem cell research

IL SPRINGFIELD — Illinois senators declined to endorse embryonic stem cell research. The legislation would have welcomed stem cell research in Illinois, require that patients at fertility clinics be told they could donate un-

needed embryos for research and made it a felony to use cloning to reproduce humans. It would not have provided any public money.

Child-porn deputy

CA MARIN COUNTY — A former sheriff's deputy has pleaded guilty to a federal charge of possessing child pornography, authorities said.

Robert Glen Anderson, 58, entered a guilty plea. He had been indicted on three child-porn counts in April 2003.

Anderson admitted that while living in Vallejo in July 2000, he possessed computer floppy disks that contained child pornography. An examination of the disks showed at least 39 images, including those that showed children involved in sexually explicit conduct, authorities said.

Water contamination

DC WASHINGTON — The water supply of the nation's capital contains minute amounts of a chemical found in rocket fuel even after it is treated, officials announced.

Although samples taken at the Dalcacarla treatment plant indicated measurable amounts of perchlorate, officials said consumers in the District of Columbia and Virginia's Arlington County and city of Falls Church had no reason to be alarmed.

Perchlorate is a naturally occurring compound that can also be manufactured. It's primary use is as a stabilizer in solid rocket fuel. In sufficient amounts, it can interfere with thyroid function and increase the rate of developing thyroid cancer.

"Our water is meeting all EPA water standards," said Thomas Jacobus, general manager of the Washington Aqueduct. Test conducted at the aqueduct indicated some samples ranged from 1.2 to 1.8 parts per billion, but most were a fraction of that amount.

Dad charged with abuse

NH WILTON — A father has been charged with severely injuring his 4-month-old son, breaking eight ribs, an arm and both legs.

Police say they were called to Southern New Hampshire Medical Center on Nov. 4 after Derek Whistler brought the child in, saying he had been crying for 18 hours and that something was wrong with the baby's arm.

According to the police report, Whistler, 39, said he may have been too rough with the boy a couple of times, squeezing him, putting him in his car seat roughly and twisting his arm while dressing him.

The baby's injuries are not life-threatening, said Hillsborough County Attorney Marguerite Wageling.

Whistler was arraigned by Judge Martha Crocker in Milford District Court. He was charged with one count of first-degree assault for each of the incidents that he relayed and is being held at the Hillsborough County Jail on \$100,000 bail. He has a probable cause hearing scheduled on Nov. 23.

If Whistler makes bail, Judge Crocker ordered him to stay at least 100 yards away from the child.



Leaping for joy Shaina Brohard, 11, a student at Mount Carmel Academy, a Catholic school in the Green Bay Diocese, in Wisconsin, leaps across a wall at Jackson Square Park during recess.



Mmm, cranberry juice A man wades amidst a sea of cranberries on his 1,800-acre farm east of Aitkin, Minn.



Backyard circus act Katy Danielle Hundley works out on a trampoline at her house on Shortown Road in Middleburg, Ky.



The tables have turned Jake, a wild turkey, brings a pair of cars to a stop on County Home Road at the west edge of Whittier, Iowa, as the drivers try to avoid hitting the bird. Jake has been causing minor traffic tie-ups as he chases slow-moving cars.



Groovin' to the music After the formal waltzes, Estefany Pelaez, center, and her friends groove to modern Latin music in the Jacobson Elementary School gymnasium in Chandler, Ariz., during her quinceañera celebration.



Gone fishing Steve Roslund fishes for perch from his kayak on Boyd Lake in Loveland, Colo. Calm water and warm temperatures lured Roslund to the lake on his day off.



Bright performance Members of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater perform for school children at the Music Hall in Kansas City, Mo.



Thanksgiving education From front left, Jefferson Elementary's Tahjric Collins, Kimberly Lopez and Allesandra Castillo sing along with their classmates dressed as pilgrims and Indians in celebration of American Education Week at the Broadmoor Mall in Hobbs, N.M.

University, Navy deal

HONOLULU — The University of Hawaii Board of Regents has given approval for school administrators to negotiate terms of a new research relationship with the Navy.

A military research center at the university could open the way to \$50 million or more in government contracts. It could become one of five Navy University Affiliated Research Centers in the nation, and the first new one in 60 years.

Native Hawaiians voiced opposition to the defense research at UH.

"The military has done more to damage our lands than anything else, including the bombing of Pearl Harbor," said Manu Kaiaima, of the Kuali Council, which represents all Native Hawaiian organizations on campus. "Do not prostitute our home for money."

The university currently receives \$300 million annually for research projects, including defense work.

Library late fee

MN BLAINE — Most parents wouldn't worry much if notified that one of their children borrowed a load of books and CDs from the library.

But when Michelle Nash got a bill for more than \$350 in overdue fines and replacement costs, she knew something unwholesome was afoot.

It seems there had been promiscuous borrowing on the library card that her 10-year-old son, Garrett, lost last summer.

Michelle Nash had the library put a stop on any use of the card.

The missing items were mostly Christian-music compilations, along with a Louis Armstrong collection and a copy of Motor Trend magazine.

The collection action against the Nashes will stop now that police are looking into the occurrence as a theft.

Inmates released early

WA TACOMA — Two men who were convicted of felony animal cruelty after firing an arrow repeatedly into a stray dog until it died have been released from jail weeks early.

The jail released Troy Loney and Steven Paulson as part of a court-ordered effort to relieve jail overcrowding.

The news prompted agonized reactions from some who led animal-rights demonstrations outside the courthouse during Paulson's and Loney's legal proceedings.

The sheriff's department has enough jail space to accommodate many more inmates, but it can't because the county lacks funds to pay for more jailers.

Mom charged in '72 death

MD BALTIMORE — When Richard A. Coffman's 5-year-old brother died in 1972, Coffman was only 3.

Although his recollection of his brother's death was fuzzy at best, his two-paragraph e-mail to Baltimore County police this summer said he knew who did it: his mother.

Thirty-two years after Edward

Coffman's death, Baltimore County police went to Orange City, Fla., and arrested Diane B. Coffman, 57, at the dental office where she works as a receptionist.

She is charged with first-degree murder in her son's death.

"It's old, the mother is accused of killing her child, and the tip came from another child," said Baltimore County police spokesman Bill Toohy.

Toohy would not say specifically what was in the e-mail sent by Richard Coffman, 35, other than that it was about his mother's character and things that had happened after his brother's death.

"It wasn't so much what he remembered about age 3, but some other things about his past that he shared with us," Toohy said.

The case was reopened in July after Richard Coffman's e-mail grabbed the attention of two Baltimore County detectives.

Turkey hurling incident

NY RONKONKOMA — Five teenagers were arrested in the hurling of a frozen turkey that smashed through a motorist's windshield, critically injuring her.

Police said Ryan Cushing, 18, threw the turkey from a car he and the other teens were riding in. It smashed through the car window of a 44-year-old woman who was driving in the other direction. She was in critical condition at Stony Brook University Hospital.

Cushing was arrested on charges of first-degree assault, reckless endangerment, forgery, criminal mischief and criminal possession of stolen property. He and the other teens allegedly stole a credit card to buy the turkey at a supermarket.

The other four teens were charged with criminal possession of stolen property.

Knife pulled on student

CO BOULDER — A University of Colorado lecturer admits pulling a knife on a pacifist female student he said insulted veterans during his class.

The student said lecturer Michael Kanner shouldn't be disciplined and would like to see if they can work out their differences after Thanksgiving.

The student's statement was released through the university, which is investigating the actions of Kanner, an instructor in political science and international affairs.

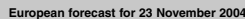
Kanner, a former career Army officer, brandished a small pen-knife after the student made a statement during a classroom discussion on Veterans Day.

Tradition snapped

GA ATLANTA — A holiday tradition was stalled when a 75-foot Christmas tree snapped in half. Workers were hoisting the Great Georgia Pine atop Rich's-Macy's store at Lennox Mall when it broke.

Atlanta-based Rich's began the Thanksgiving Day lighting tradition more than 50 years ago. Store officials said they'll bring in a backup tree and still expect to be ready by Thanksgiving.

Stories and photos from wire services



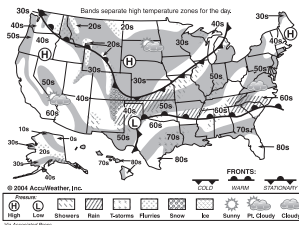
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MIDEAS

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Horoscope

With Venus at the south node and the moon at the north node, relationships are shaken out of automatic modes. Looking back at a very first meeting or an early phase of a relationship is enlightening—it only we knew then what we know now, how would we have acted differently? There's a chance to rectify an action or apologize, too.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(November 23). Love connections get even stronger this year, as you pursue your ambition with great passion. You simply won't quit, and that makes you attractive to people who would like to help you. A financial opportunity opens up in January. You may feel undecided about what to do until a new person shows up in February who dictates a course of action.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A step on the stairway of learning is featured. Make sure you understand the changing responsibilities that come your way, preferably before you agree to them. Realistic budgeting now will allow you to travel later.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A principle of economics called Stein's Law may help you process the madness that is your life today: "Things that can't go on forever, don't." But instead of trying to just get through it, laugh in the moment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your sleeping dreams are colorful but nothing compared to your waking ones! Be careful with whom you share them, as practical, well-meaning folks could rain on your parade just when you need a cheerleader.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Sometimes, things are more right when they go all wrong. You'll emerge from a humbling scenario as a better person. Look for opportunities to bring in additional income through part-time or overtime work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Be the voice of reason! Beware of macho posturing from people around you. Such arrogance could cause the group to believe it can sustain the

unsustainable. Then, later, it will fall to you to clean up the mess.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've got a poetic gift! Write a passionate letter! You could woo someone through language or song.

By putting pen to paper, you see your thoughts more clearly and may decide it's time to change some of them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It has been said that wisdom is knowing what should be done and virtue is actually doing it. You embody both characteristics in big and small ways. Sometimes, this means not answering your cell phone in public.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Someone with a quick wit will entertain you, but be wary about getting too involved. Guard against being a follower. Manners and class equal putting the comfort of others before your own.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A sudden sense of peace catches you off guard and causes you to slow down. Maybe you don't have to try and cram in all those errands! You're so relaxed tonight, you actually let contentment settle into your bones.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). In order to accomplish what you've said you will accomplish, you need more manpower. Training, trusting and rewarding others will be a theme of this day if you're to set yourself up for success.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Identity problems so you can obliterate them. After all, anxiety is not fear of something but fear of nothing at all. It's not knowing what to be afraid of that's debilitating. Give your "enemy" a form so you can get rid of it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are just where you need to be. Know this—believe it! At a deeper place in your psyche. Your sense of calm helps you deal with a million little details that need to be addressed.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



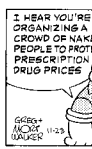
Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



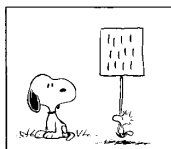
Red and Rover



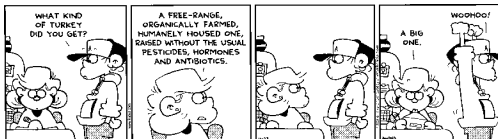
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



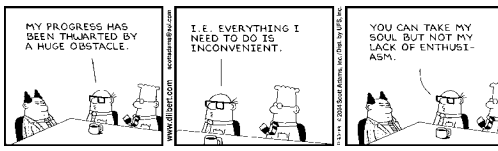
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



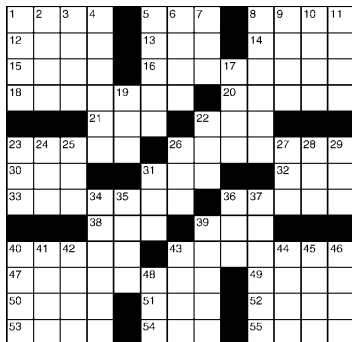
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Mallard's cousin
- 5 Scoundrel
- 8 Summer cabin site
- 12 Cartoonist
- 13 "tabacco Road"
- 14 Samson port
- 15 Belligerent delty
- 16 Big scores in Vegas
- 18 Capital of Brandenburg
- 20 Restless
- 21 La-la precursor
- 22 Long March leader
- 23 Astronaut-turned-politician
- 26 Dulling influences
- 30 Thumbs-up vote
- 31 "Alley—"
- 32 Privy
- 33 Character
- 36 Distorted
- 38 Mimic
- 39 Mischief-maker
- 40 Texas A&M athlete
- 43 Winning and winning
- 47 Attendance check
- 49 Concept
- 50 Bender?
- 51 Doctor's due
- 52 Apparel
- 53 Gardener's starter
- 54 Youngster
- 55 Piccadilly statue

Down

- 1 Snare
- 2 Franc replacer
- 3 Help a hood
- 4 Piece of instruction
- 5 Punjab potentate
- 6 Rib relinquisher
- 7 Middle X or O?
- 8 Convenient computer
- 9 Vulgate Bible bks.
- 10 Friends and neighbors
- 11 Hassle-free
- 12 Former Patriots' owner Victor
- 13 Get dressed in
- 14 Chart
- 15 Separation
- 16 Caustic solution
- 17 Producer (Suff.)
- 26 "— good deed"
- 27 Wapiti
- 28 Beluga product
- 29 Ms. piggy?
- 31 Indivisible
- 34 Went like Columbus
- 35 Well-financed org.?
- 36 "I — lineman ..."
- 37 Elf
- 39 Bay
- 40 Clumsy craft
- 41 Vanished
- 42 Mirth
- 43 Broad spread
- 44 Skunk's defense
- 45 Toy block name
- 46 Colleen
- 48 Sternward

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-23

CRYPTOQUIP

OWVFG UCU MGE B QRFL
 UGOYWOGO YHGPEB W
 NRG OO HVG QWNLP OCB

L G O CMGE O G PH MGE O G
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT FISH IS GREAT, I GUESS YOU MIGHT DESCRIBE IT AS FINTASTIC.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals V

Buying the ring a complicated thing

Dear Abby: "Deb in Knoxville" asked who should buy the ring if the woman proposes. I think the groom should buy the ring for the bride, and the bride should buy the ring for the groom, no matter who proposes. It should be their gift to each other.

—Joyful

in Alpharetta, GA.
Dear Joyful: My ears are "ringing" from the many comments I've received regarding that letter. Read on:

Dear Abby: Your answer to "Deb in Knoxville" was right on. You advised her that if the man is a gentleman, he should buy it. And if he refuses, she should enter the marriage with her eyes wide open and no illusions about what her future will be.

Even though my husband popped the question to me, he never bought me a ring. It was

Dear Abby



an indication of what was to come. He is the world's worst cheapskate.
I can count on one hand the number of gifts he has given me over the years. He is equally withholding emotionally. When I was single, I never thought that such things were important in a relationship. I was wrong. It's been a lonely life.

—Lonely in Dixie
Dear Lonely: In your case, the lack of gifts is less important than the absence of what they stand for. You have my sympathy.

Dear Abby: My girlfriend tells me that it is tradition that the man buys the woman a ring, and the woman buys the man a watch. What a great tradition! Have you heard of this?

—Bob in Chicago
Dear Bob: No, so I called Dawn Moore, the West Coast

regional director of Chopard Jewelers. She informed me that a wristwatch is the "traditional offering" from the woman to the man at the time of the engagement or the wedding.
(What a clever way of ensuring he makes it to the church on time!)

Dear Abby: "Deb in Knoxville" asked who should buy the ring if the woman proposes. You replied that you're old-fashioned, and the man should buy it if he's a gentleman. I disagree! If the woman asks, she should buy the ring. Not only that, but she should present that ring to him. What's good for the goose is good for the gander.

—Equal Opportunity Engager
Dear Engager: Thank you for stating the opposing point of view.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uspspress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HOTOT

HOBAR

AMRUTE

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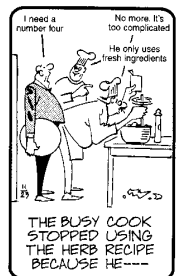
OF

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OF

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

THE BUSY COOK STOPPED USING THE HERB RECIPE BECAUSE HE---

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Widow finds disturbing book

Dear Annie: My husband, "Lester," was killed in an auto accident last month. Yesterday, I finally received the last items from his car.

When I went through them, I found a paperback book that was disgusting, pornographic trash. The loss of my husband has been overwhelming, but finding this book was a new low.

I knew Lester was addicted to pornography. It affected our intimate life together because he was more interested in pornography than in me. Three years ago, a former high school classmate sent Lester topless pictures of herself, and he started e-mailing her. My trust evaporated, and our 14-year marriage was on the rocks. A marriage counselor helped us work through our problems, and Lester agreed there would be

Annie's Mailbox



no more porn.
I thought our marriage was OK again, but after finding that X-rated garbage in his car, I have doubts that anything Lester ever said or did was true. Lester always told me he loved me. He told our friends he adored me. Now I think he may have been lying. Since he's not here to defend himself, how am I supposed to get through the pain of losing him so suddenly in the accident, and then losing him again through this betrayal?

—Heartbroken
Dear Heartbroken: This must have been quite a shock for you, and I'm no doubt turned your world upside-down. Please don't look backward and relish everything Lester said and did in an effort to spot the lies.

Lester's behavior was, to a certain extent, beyond his con-

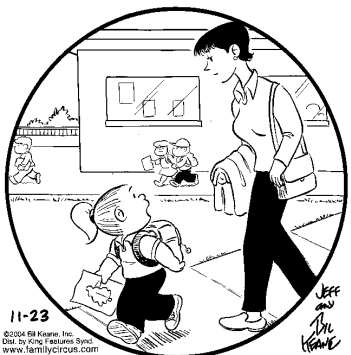
trol. It doesn't mean he wasn't trying or that he loved you any less. You need to have faith in that and forgive him. If you still cannot manage to do that, ask your doctor to refer you to a grief counselor.

Dear Annie: I wonder if you could answer a trivial question for me: On which side do you place the open end of the pillowcase when making up the bed? Does it go toward the outside or the inside? Thanks.

—Florida Flounder
Dear Florida: The open end goes toward the outer edge of the bed, where it can be seen. Many edges are embroidered and meant to be noticed. You're welcome.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniemailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



"I like it when the lunchroom is noisy. I can't hear people chewing."

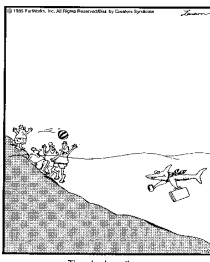


Dennis the Menace



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The Far Side



Non Sequitur



The shark on the go

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Lucky 13 makes Federer the master in men's tennis

BY MICHAEL A. LUTZ
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Roger Federer started the week recuperating from a torn thigh muscle and ended it with a strong hold on the No. 1 ranking.

The top-seeded Federer won a record 13th straight final Sunday, beating Lleyton Hewitt 6-3, 6-2 in the title match of the ATP Masters Cup.

Federer's victory broke the record he shared with Bjorn Borg and John McEnroe. He ended the season with 17 straight match victories, and his 74 match victories ties Andy Roddick for the most on tour this year.

"It's been an incredible season, like a fairy tale," Federer said.

Hewitt, the Australian former No. 1, lost to Federer six times this year, including in the finals of the U.S. Open.

"For a long time now, my game's matched up pretty well," Hewitt said. "Even this week, it's been good enough to beat nearly everyone but one guy. You know, the last two big tournaments — the U.S. Open and here — the only guy I've run into who's been better has been Roger Federer."

Federer's winning percentage of .925 is the best since Ivan



Roger Federer of Switzerland returns a shot in the first set against Lleyton Hewitt in their Tennis Masters Cup finals match Sunday. Federer won his record 13th straight final.

Lendl had the same 74-6 record in 1986. McEnroe has the record with a .965 percentage and an 82-3 record in 1984.

Federer is proud of his accomplishments.

"Early in my career, you know, I was struggling with consistent-

cy," Federer said. "I mean you couldn't get more consistent than I was this year. For me, this is incredible."

Federer, who earned \$1,520,000, became the first player since Lendl in 1986-87 to win consecutive Masters Cup titles without losing a match. Federer also won his 22nd tournament since 2000, the most of any player in that time. Hewitt has 21.

Federer has won on all surfaces. His victory Sunday gave him a 46-4 record on hard courts.

"I've proven on all surfaces everywhere in the world that I can win the title," Federer said. "I think that makes it very special, this whole year, because the season I've had and I've basically won on all continents."

Rain delayed the tournament throughout the week and did so again Sunday. The start was delayed almost three hours and the first set lasted only 27 minutes, before rain stopped play with Federer leading 5-2.

Federer served flawlessly early on, missing only nine serves in the first set and hitting seven aces.

Federer broke in the second game at the second break point with a passing shot. Leading 4-1, Federer allowed Hewitt to escape

another break point in the sixth game but Federer hit three straight errors and Hewitt held.

After the rain delay, Federer closed out the first set and broke Hewitt in the fifth game of the second set for a 3-2 lead. Hewitt won only four points after that, popping a service return beyond the baseline on match point.

The final was less memorable than Federer's semifinal victory over Marat Safin on Saturday when Federer won a record-tying 20-18 tiebreaker in the second set.

It was the third tiebreaker to reach 20-18 since the system started in 1970. It equaled tiebreaker victories by Bjorn Borg in a 1973 first round over Premjit Lal at Wimbledon and by Goran Ivanisevic against Daniel Nestor in the 1993 U.S. Open.

Federer and Hewitt also met in the finals of the U.S. Open with similar results, Federer winning 6-0, 7-6 (3), 6-0.

"I think he played better in the U.S. Open," Hewitt said. "It's hard to fault the way he played at the start of the Open. I don't think I've ever seen any one player that good. He had spots like that today."

The tournament final was reduced to best of three sets instead of best-of-five because of the threat of more rain.

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STARS & STRIPES

Your HomeTown Newspaper

SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Tuesday

AFN-Atlantic, AFN-Radio, 3 a.m.—NFL: New England at Kansas City.
SportsCenter, 5:15 a.m.—Auto racing: Nestlé Cup Ford 400 (radio).
3 p.m.—NFL: Atlanta at Kansas City (radio).
7 p.m.—NFL: New England at Kansas City (radio).

Wednesday

AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.—NFL football: Grey Cup, British Columbia vs. Toronto (radio).
AFN-Radio, 9 a.m.—College basketball: Women's Presseset National championship game in Toledo (radio).
AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.—College football: Bowling Green at Toledo (radio).

All Times Central European Time; did include delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Some radio broadcasts not available in all areas. Visit www.afn.net for more information.

College football

AP Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Nov. 20, total points scored with 25 points or a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and winning streaks.

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Southern Cal (48)	11-0	1,541	2
2. Oklahoma (9)	11-0	1,449	2
3. Texas (10)	11-0	1,449	2
4. California	9-1	1,413	4
5. Utah	11-0	1,413	4
6. Boise State	11-0	1,413	4
7. Louisville	8-2	1,106	8
8. Michigan	10-0	1,093	2
9. Miami	8-2	1,030	12
10. Virginia Tech	8-2	884	15
11. Georgia	8-2	878	17
12. Michigan	9-2	863	17
13. LSU	8-2	859	14
14. Tennessee	8-2	786	15
15. Florida	8-2	786	15
16. Boston College	8-2	548	19
17. Oregon	8-2	548	19
18. Florida St.	8-2	523	10
19. Texas Tech	8-2	523	10
20. West Virginia	8-2	523	10
21. Texas A&M	8-2	523	10
22. Oklahoma St.	8-2	523	10
23. UTEP	8-2	163	24

Others receiving votes: Bowling Green, 41; Ohio St., 23; Pittsburgh, 24; Purdue, 1; Alabama, 7; Clemson, 3; Toledo, 3; Memphis, 2; Navy, 2; Texas St., Fresno St., 1; Illinois, 1; New Mexico, 1.

USA Today/ESPN Top 25

The top 25 teams in the USA Today-ESPN college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Nov. 20, total points scored with 25 points or a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Southern Cal (48)	10-0	1,510	1
2. Oklahoma (7)	11-0	1,449	2
3. Auburn (6)	11-0	1,436	3
4. Utah	11-0	1,229	4
5. Texas	9-1	1,260	5
6. Georgia	8-2	1,092	10
7. Virginia Tech	8-2	884	11
8. Miami (Fla.)	8-2	850	13
9. Boise State	10-0	887	14
10. Virginia Tech	8-2	849	15
11. Michigan	8-2	813	17
12. Tennessee	8-2	786	18
13. Louisville	8-2	684	16
14. Wisconsin	8-2	507	9
15. Boston College	8-2	478	19
16. Arizona State	8-2	421	21
17. Virginia	8-2	419	22
18. Texas A&M	8-2	274	22
19. Oklahoma State	8-2	274	22
20. Bowling Green	8-2	212	24
21. Boise State	8-2	212	24

Also receiving votes: Virginia Tech, 15; Ohio State, 16; North Carolina, 17; Penn State, 18; Pittsburgh, 8; Iowa State, 9; Purdue, 10; Memphis, 11; Miami, 12; Florida, 13; North Carolina, 14; Colorado, 1; Miami (Ohio), 1; Navy, 1; North Carolina, 1; Oregon State, 1.

AP Top 25 schedule

Thursday, Nov. 25	Friday, Nov. 26
No. 21 West Virginia at Pittsburgh	No. 6 Texas vs. No. 22 Texas A&M
No. 14 LSU at Arkansas	No. 14 LSU at Arkansas
No. 28 Arizona State at Arizona	No. 28 Arizona State at Arizona
Saturday, Nov. 26	
No. 1 Southern Cal vs. Notre Dame	
No. 7 Louisville vs. Cincinnati	
No. 10 Virginia Tech vs. No. 10 Virginia Tech	
No. 15 Tennessee vs. Kentucky	
No. 17 Boston College vs. Syracuse	
No. 18 Oklahoma State vs. Oklahoma State	
No. 24 UT at Tulsa	

Division I-AA playoffs

First Round	Second Round
Jackville State (9-1) at Fernan (9-2)	Hampton (10-1) at William (10-2)
James Madison (9-2) at Lehigh (9-2)	Western Kentucky (9-2) at Sam Houston State (9-2)

Northwestern State (9-2) at Montana (9-2)
 Eastern Washington (9-2) at Southern Illinois (9-1)
 Lafayette (9-2) at Delaware (9-2)
 New Hampshire (9-2) at Georgia Southern (9-2)

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 fared

	Nov. 15-21
1. Kansas (11-0)	Vermont 68-61
2. Wake Forest (11-0)	Virginia Commonwealth 97-76
3. Georgia Tech (11-0)	Alabama State 74-57
4. North Carolina (9-1)	lost to Santa Clara 77-67
5. Syracuse (4-0)	beat No. 12 Mississippi State 75-66
6. Illinois (2-0)	beat Delaware State 87-67
7. North Carolina (9-1)	beat No. 12 Mississippi State 75-66
8. Oklahoma State (1-0)	beat Northwestern State 74-57
9. Connecticut (1-0)	beat Buffalo 90-68
10. Kentucky (1-0)	beat Coppin State 77-46
11. Arizona (2-1)	beat San Diego 80-69
12. Wright State (3-0)	lost to San Diego 88-69
13. Duke (1-0)	beat Tennessee-Marion 88-69
14. Mississippi State (4-1)	lost to No. 5 Syracuse 71-68
15. Alabama (2-0)	beat Florida A&M 104-72
16. Louisville (1-0)	beat BYU-Hawaii 69-79
17. Maryland (1-0)	beat Jackson State 93-76
18. Texas (1-0)	beat Texas State 95-63
19. Pittsburgh (1-0)	beat North Carolina 97-69
20. North Carolina (2-0)	beat West Virginia 100-66
21. Wake Forest (11-0)	beat Howard 69-59
22. Wisconsin (1-0)	beat Pennsylvania 77-44
23. Washington (1-0)	beat Seattle Pacific 88-71
24. Oklahoma (2-0)	beat Jacksonville 81-59
25. Memphis (3-1)	beat St. Mary's, Calif. 81-69
26. Missouri (2-0)	beat St. Mary's, Calif. 81-69
27. Gonzaga (2-0)	beat Portland State 98-69
28. Portland State (2-0)	beat St. Mary's, Calif. 81-69

Sunday's men's scores

	Nov. 22
Long Island 82, Hofstra 56	
San Diego St. 69, Loyola, Md. 56	
New Hampshire 86, Suffolk 75	
Florida 79, Alabama 85	
North Texas 71, Denver 70	
Saint Louis 62, Hofstra 61	
Florida International 70, Miami 67	
Mississippi St. 69, Mississippi St. 69	
Alabama St. 50, South Carolina 47	
Virginia 78, Arizona 60	

MIDWEST

	Nov. 22
Kentucky 73, Evansville 68	
Evansville 68, Coastal Carolina 80	
Illinois 81, Minnesota 83	
Minnesota 83, Lincoln 66	
Iowa 84, Wayne, Neb. 66	
Youngstown St. 70, Lock Haven 56	

SOUTHWEST

	Nov. 22
TCU 74, Shawnee 60	
Texas A&M 74, Texas A&M 74	
Texas A&M 74, Texas A&M 74	
Texas A&M 74, Texas A&M 74	
Texas A&M 74, Texas A&M 74	

FAIR WEST

	Nov. 22
Air Force 67, Idaho 41	
Idaho 41, Air Force 67	
Idaho 41, Air Force 67	
Idaho 41, Air Force 67	
Idaho 41, Air Force 67	

TOWNSHIP

	Nov. 22
St. Mary's, Cal. 81, San Diego 52	
St. Mary's, Cal. 81, San Diego 52	
St. Mary's, Cal. 81, San Diego 52	
St. Mary's, Cal. 81, San Diego 52	
St. Mary's, Cal. 81, San Diego 52	

TOURNAMENTS

	Nov. 22
AP Top of the World Classic	
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	

AP Top of the World Classic

	Nov. 22
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	

AP Top of the World Classic

	Nov. 22
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	
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UCF 62, New Mexico 58	
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	

AP Top of the World Classic

	Nov. 22
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	

Louisiana Classic
 LSU 83, Louisiana-Lafayette 71-65
 Louisiana Tech 71-65
 Louisiana Tech 71-65
 Louisiana Tech 71-65
 Louisiana Tech 71-65

AP Women's Top 25 fared

	Nov. 15-21
1. Tennessee (2-0)	beat Chattanooga 68-57
2. North Carolina (2-0)	beat Carolina State 64-54
3. LSU (4-0)	lost to North Carolina 79-64
4. Connecticut (1-1)	beat Buffalo 107-40
5. Georgia (2-0)	beat Furman 98-76
6. Duke (3-0)	lost to No. 11 Notre Dame 70-66
7. Stanford (2-0)	beat Utah 57-57
8. Baylor (1-1)	beat Indiana 60-47
9. North Carolina (2-0)	beat No. 20 Arizona 65-58
10. Connecticut (1-1)	beat No. 20 Arizona 65-58
11. North Carolina (2-0)	beat No. 20 Arizona 65-58
12. North Carolina (2-0)	beat No. 20 Arizona 65-58
13. Vanderbilt (1-0)	beat St. Francis, Pa. 102-47
14. Minnesota (3-1)	lost to Washington 77-47
15. Michigan State (2-0)	beat Central Connecticut 77-42
16. Wayne (1-0)	beat Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne 107-39
17. Rutgers (1-0)	beat Rider 90-42
18. Boston College (1-1)	beat Western Michigan 74-50
19. Kansas State (2-0)	beat Wyoming 85-42
20. North Carolina (2-0)	beat Murray State 95-58
21. Oklahoma (2-0)	beat Southeast Missouri 84-62
22. Oklahoma (2-0)	lost to No. 10 Ohio State 76-67
23. Penn State (0-3)	lost to No. 6 Duke 66-52
24. Maryland (2-0)	beat Appalachian State 92-75
25. Louisiana Tech (0-0)	did not play

Sunday women's scores

	Nov. 22
Drexel 59, Saint Joseph's 59	
Rutgers 90, Rider 42	
Alabama A&M 70, Tuskegee 55	
Belmont 70, Va. Commonwealth 54	
Delaware St. 65, Morehead 49	
Grambling 58, Paul Quinn 41	
Richmond 81, West Missouri 71	
Tennessee 62, ETSU 56	
Towson 55, Norfolk St. 49	

MIDWEST

	Nov. 22
Marquette 74, Wis.-Milwaukee 66	
N.Y. Tech 71, Chicago 69	
Oklahoma 81, North Dakota 49	
UTEP 75, Texas-Dallas 38	

FAIR WEST

	Nov. 22
Arizona St. 70, San Diego 45	
New Mexico 57, New Mexico 58	
New Mexico 57, New Mexico 58	
New Mexico 57, New Mexico 58	
New Mexico 57, New Mexico 58	

TOWNSHIP

	Nov. 22
Air Force 75, Idaho 41	
Idaho 41, Air Force 67	
Idaho 41, Air Force 67	
Idaho 41, Air Force 67	
Idaho 41, Air Force 67	

TOWNSHIP

	Nov. 22
St. Mary's, Cal. 81, San Diego 52	
St. Mary's, Cal. 81, San Diego 52	
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UCF 62, New Mexico 58	
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	

AP Top of the World Classic

	Nov. 22
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	
UCF 62, New Mexico 58	

St. Francis, N.Y. 10-6
 John Assenza's Nugget Classic
 Nevada 69, Colorado 59
 Louisiana Tech 71-65
 Louisiana Tech 71-65
 Louisiana Tech 71-65

AP Women's Top 25 fared

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1. Tennessee (2-0)	beat Chattanooga 68-57
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Belmont 70, Va. Commonwealth 54	
Delaware St. 65, Morehead 49	
Grambling 58, Paul Quinn 41	
Richmond 81, West Missouri 71	
Tennessee 62, ETSU 56	
Towson 55, Norfolk St. 49	

MIDWEST

	Nov. 22
Marquette 74, Wis.-Milwaukee 66	
N.Y. Tech 71, Chicago 69	
Oklahoma 81, North Dakota 49	
UTEP 75, Texas-Dallas 38	

FAIR WEST

	Nov. 22
Arizona St. 70, San Diego 45	
New Mexico 57, New Mexico 58	
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New Mexico 57, New Mexico 58	
New Mexico 57, New Mexico 58	

TOWNSHIP

	Nov. 22
Air Force 75, Idaho 41	
Idaho 41, Air Force 67	
Idaho 41, Air Force 67	
Idaho 41, Air Force 67	
Idaho 41, Air Force 67	

TOWNSHIP

	Nov. 22
St. Mary's, Cal. 81, San Diego 52	
St. Mary's, Cal. 81, San Diego 52	

USC, Oklahoma in control

Auburn likely to be left out of national title game

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

Southern California and Oklahoma held the top two spots in the Bowl Championship Series standings on Monday, leaving little doubt that the Trojans and Sooners are in control of their national title hopes.

Unbeaten Auburn is stuck in third place behind the first-place Trojans and second-place Sooners. The Tigers look like they'll be the team left out of the Orange Bowl no matter how they do in the Southeastern Conference championship game on Dec. 4 against Tennessee.

USC finishes the season against Notre Dame on Saturday and UCLA on Dec. 4. The Sooners still have to play the Big 12 title game

against either Iowa State or Colorado.

Only an unexpected loss or a dramatic shift in the polls, where USC is a solid No. 1 and Oklahoma holds a slight advantage over Auburn for second, could derail the Trojans and Sooners.

Not only did Oklahoma, with a BCS grade of .9642, slightly increase its lead over Auburn (.9356) from last week to .0286, but the Sooners also made a big gain on USC.

The Trojans' 9789 grade is their lowest of the season. Their lead on Oklahoma is down to .0147.

USC was idle last week while Oklahoma was shutting out Baylor 35-0 on Saturday. Auburn trailed at the half before beating Alabama 21-13.

California (.8504) is in fourth place and Texas (.8301) is fifth, with Utah (.8172) sixth.

The Utes (11-0) finished their season on Saturday with a 52-21 win over Mountain West Conference rival BYU, all but ensuring themselves of being the first team from a non-BCS conference to play in a BCS game.

Teams from outside the BCS conferences need to finish in the top six of the final BCS standings to guarantee a spot in one of the four \$14-million bowl games.

Boise State is seventh, keeping alive the possibility that the BCS could have two mid-major teams in it this season. The unbeaten Broncos (10-0) of the Western Athletic Conference have a grade of .639 and one game left against Nevada.



Quarterback Jason White and the Sooners increased their BCS lead over No. 3 Auburn and also gained on No. 1 USC.

It's still a long shot for Boise State, though. Even if California or Texas loses its season finale and the Broncos finish unbeaten, it might not be enough for them to make the jump they need in the polls and computer rankings.

Holtz retires after 33 years of coaching

BY PETE IACOBELLI

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina coach Lou Holtz walked away from coaching Monday, ending a 33-year career that was one of the most successful and colorful in college football history.

"It's always with mixed emotions whenever you leave something," Holtz said during a news conference, his eyes filling with tears.

The 67-year-old coach told the team and his staff on Thursday, although he said little publicly about his departure or about reports Steve Spurrier will succeed him.

Holtz did not identify his successor, but said he was a well-known proven winner whom he plays golf with.

He also said Monday that if South Carolina goes to a bowl game, it would be best for the university if the new coach leads them there. That's a change from Saturday, when Holtz said he intended to coach the team in a bowl game after the Gamecocks lost 29-7 to Clemson.

"I don't know where I'm going to go. I don't know what I'm going to do. I have faith in the Lord to lead him lead me. As long as my family's with me, everything else will be OK," Holtz said.

"But I do feel confident leaving here that the football program is on a firm foundation."

He's eighth in career victories with 249. But what he became known for was reviving dormant programs. He took six schools — William & Mary, North Carolina State, Arkansas, Minnesota, Notre Dame and South Carolina — to bowl games by his second year. He won a national championship with the Fighting Irish in 1985.

After leaving South Bend, Ind., in 1996 and thinking he would never coach again, the then 61-year-old Holtz was lured to Columbia to replace fired Brad Scott.

Holtz suffered through a miserable first season in 1999. His wife, Beth, had a recurrence of throat cancer; his son and top assistant, Skip, had a mysterious illness that hospitalized him early that football season; his mother, Anne Marie, died right before the Florida game; and a university plane carrying Holtz on a recruiting trip crashed after dropping the coach off, killing the pilot.

His team went 0-11, the worst season of Holtz's career. So when South Carolina stunned then No. 9 Georgia in the second game of the 2000 season, it was a remarkable accomplishment. The Gamecocks continued their resurgence the next two years, going 17-7 and twice defeating Ohio State in the Outback Bowl.

Holtz is the only coach in South Carolina history with two bowl victories. He finished his six-year stint with the Gamecocks 33-37.

Utah waits to learn its BCS bowl berth

BY DOUG ALDEN

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah's four-month campaign is over. Now all the Utes can do is wait for the returns.

And they're in a better position than they could ever have hoped.

"This is a greatest feeling in the world," Utes safety Morgan Scalley said after Utah completed an 11-0 regular season by beating rival Brigham Young 52-21 on Saturday night.

"To know how hard you've worked from the summer up until now, we weren't going to let this one get away," he said.

Scalley was sporting a big grin and an even bigger sombrero — a nod to the Fiesta Bowl, where the fifth-ranked Utes are expected to play Jan. 1.

Utah has unofficially clinched a Bowl Championship Series at-large bid, but where the Utes will end up won't be known for two weeks.

Representatives from the Fiesta, Sugar and Liberty bowls attended Saturday's game, although the Liberty is no longer a destination. As Mountain West Conference champion, the Utes are obligated to the Memphis game, but the league and bowl officials are working out an arrangement to free the team up for the BCS.

Barring a huge upset of top-ranked Southern California, the Rose Bowl will likely keep its traditional matchup of Big Ten vs. Pac-10. That leaves the Fiesta and Sugar, or maybe even the Orange Bowl — which will feature the BCS No. 1 and No. 2 teams according to the Dec. 5 final standings.

So could the Utes make the national title game? "That's a great question, and I haven't thought about it yet," Utah coach Urban Meyer said.

Maybe it's better if he doesn't try. Of the teams ahead of the Utes, California still has to play at Southern Mississippi on Dec. 4 in a game rescheduled because of a hurricane. Oklahoma and Auburn still have conference championships to be played, although both will be big favorites.

But one upset could have a huge impact on the BCS field.

"This team could be playing in the Orange Bowl. We don't know what's going to happen these next two weeks," Fiesta Bowl president John Junker said. "The one thing I will just guarantee is there will be one more surprise that nobody expects."

"For somebody to say 'Aw, they're all going to win,' it's never happened yet."



Utah head coach Urban Meyer is doused as his team beat BYU 52-21 Saturday. The team unofficially clinched a BCS at-large bid, and is likely headed to the Sugar or Fiesta Bowl.

The Utes aren't really worried about where they're headed.

Making the BCS is enough of an accomplishment. In six years of the system, only teams from the six power conferences that have automatic spots in the games and Notre Dame have played in the four games.

Utah is making history by becoming the first school from a mid-major conference to break into the system. And the Utes have proudly accepted the moniker of "BCS Underdogs" all season while going 11-0.

"No Utah team in history has done that. We've just came out and proven that we are the top team," said receiver Steve Savoy, who ran for two touchdowns — including a 92-yard

run that really broke BYU, and caught a pass for another. "Whether they want to put us in the BCS or not, that's not in our hands."

Utah hasn't had a perfect season since going 8-0 in 1930. The 1940 Utes went 6-0-2, but no Utah team of the modern era has made a run like this. Ten years ago, the Utes finished 10-2 under former coach Ron McBride, who was fired after the 2002 season and replaced with Meyer.

Most of the Utes are still McBride recruits, and Meyer gave credit to his predecessor after the game.

"Coach McBride called me on Thursday and said I wish to God I was a part of this," and I told him, "You are a big part of this," Meyer said. "This all started with him."

DESERET MORNING NEWS/AF

Busch wins Nextel Cup

Roush driver loses wheel, still finishes fifth in season finale to secure first NASCAR title

BY JENNA FRYER

The Associated Press

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — The last time Kurt Busch cried in Victory Lane, it was partly because he realized he was one of the most hated drivers in NASCAR.

When the tears flowed Sunday at Homestead-Miami Speedway, it could have been because Busch realized it doesn't matter if he's popular.

Love him or hate him, Busch is a NASCAR champion.

The brash young driver wrapped up his first title Sunday by outdueling nine rivals in NASCAR's 10-race Chase for the Nextel Cup championship.

It capped a rollercoaster ride for Busch, a 26-year-old Las Vegas native considered an outsider in NASCAR. He doesn't look like the other competitors, he doesn't talk like them, and because he often comes across as cocky and arrogant, he isn't embraced like them.

When he was viciously booed after winning Bristol Motor Speedway last season — one week after Jimmy Spencer punched him in the face following a race — it became clear that Busch was NASCAR's newest villain.

Funny how none of that matters when the shiny silver Nextel Cup championship is sitting at your feet.

"It took me some time to understand the bigger picture," he said. "Just to be able to understand the

Closest title finishes

Closest point finishes for the NASCAR title:

1 — Kurt Busch wins over Jimmie Johnson, 2004.
2 — Alan Kulwicki wins over Bill Elliott, 1992.

11 — Richard Petty wins over Darrell Waltrip, 1979.

12 — Rusty Wallace wins over Dale Earnhardt, 1988.

14 — Jeff Gordon wins over Dale Jarrett, 1997.

19 — Dale Earnhardt wins over Cale Yarborough, 1980.

bigger ethic and the bigger picture about racing at this level is one thing that I misunderstood the first couple of years."

Recognizing that was the key to Busch rising to the top of NASCAR in just his fourth season. He won the title by eight points over Jimmie Johnson — a difference of just two places in the season-ending race — and 16 over Jeff Gordon.

The dramatic finish was a fitting end to a new 10-man, 10-race Chase for the Nextel Cup Championship.

After years of backluster championship battles, Busch came into the finale leading Johnson by 18 points and Gordon by 21, with Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Mark Martin also outside shots at the title.

Johnson and Gordon were racing for car owner Rick Hendrick, who lost four family members and valued employees when a plane crashed Oct. 24 en route to a race in Virginia.

But in a way, Busch was racing for Hendrick as well. His younger brother, Kyle, drives for Hendrick in the Busch Series.

"I'm choked up because there nothing harder in the NASCAR community than what we had to go through a couple weeks ago with Hendrick and the problem they had," Busch said. "I love them truly and I want to dedicate anything I can from this championship to them. My little brother was affected by this, so it hit home."

That's the maturity that had been lacking in Busch before.

The talent was always there — he has 11 Nextel Cup victories — but he was unpunished and inconsistent. Add it all up, and Busch was unable to win a title under NASCAR's points system.

But then NASCAR changed the rules, and it suited Busch's style perfectly.

More reserved since his feud with Spencer led sponsor Sharpie to make him take a "career counseling" course, he stayed low under the radar until the Chase began.

Then he made his move, and dodged every speed bump along the way, including breaking a wheel and losing a tire midway through Sunday's race.

"I was in stitches, sick to my stomach the last few laps," Busch said. "I had been out there forever. I felt like I had the whole world on my shoulders and at the same time I felt I was alone."

"So many emotions today. To be able to pull through like we did and cap off an unbelievable season, it's just a great season."

Some will argue that it's not, that the championship race was manufactured by race.

He scrapped a system used for two decades to create a battle that came down to the final lap of the final race.

Boy, did he succeed.

Busch, Gordon and Johnson jockeyed for position for every one of the 271 laps. Every spot was critical, every point furiously calculated by their car owners and crew chiefs.

When the race went into overtime because a late caution made it impossible to finish in the original 267 laps, everyone strapped in for what was sure to be a wild shootout to the end.



Kurt Busch looks up at his trophy after winning the 2004 Nextel Cup Championship on Sunday at the Homestead Miami-Speedway in Homestead, Fla. Busch finished fifth in the Ford 400 to clinch the title.

The contenders stacked up in a line, fender-to-fender, knowing what was at stake. Gordon was in third, Johnson was in fourth and Busch in fifth.

Busch's part was easy — stay out of trouble over the final four laps and the title was his.

Gordon and Johnson, who came in trailing Busch in the standings, knew they had to do much more: One of them needed to win the race to wrap up the title.

The field got the green flag, and the desperation was obvious in Gordon and Johnson, teammates and the closest of friends. Their Chevrolet's darted to the bottom of the track, then back to the top, each looking for the tiniest bit of room to squeeze through.

Johnson found a hole and skyrocketed past Gordon.

Neither of them saw Greg Biffle, Busch's teammate, race past them and steadily pull away.

With Biffle stealing the win they needed, and Busch staying put in fifth place, the championship was over.

"We beat the best of the best over 10 races, and to have my name along the best names in history, it means so much to me," Busch said.

Nothing could stop Busch from winning the title. Not a blown tire in Atlanta, not spinning out in Kansas, not wrecking in Charlotte, not even a wheel falling off in the biggest race of his life.

"This is what a team does to win a championship — they persevere," Busch said. "All year long, we've done things like this. Whether we put ourselves in a hole or whether we had a small problem."



Greg Biffle took the lead for the final time on the next-to-last lap to win the Ford 400 on Sunday and ensure teammate Kurt Busch won the Nextel Cup championship.

Hendrick teammates Johnson, Gordon run out of laps, time

BY TIM REYNOLDS

The Associated Press

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — Rick Hendrick's pain would not have been completely soothed by joining Jimmie Johnson or Jeff Gordon to celebrate a Nextel Cup championship.

Still, the drivers desperately wanted to deliver NASCAR's biggest prize to their owner.

Johnson and Gordon each led the Nextel Cup points race at various times during Sunday's season-ending Ford 400, but neither could finish the job and bring Hendrick Motorsports what would have been its sixth NASCAR title in 20 years. Johnson

finished in second place, eight points behind champion Kurt Busch.

"The one thing Jeff and I can both look back and say at our teams — and Rick in his heart feels this way, too — if we did everything we could possibly do," Johnson said. "When you go to bed at night knowing that, you sleep a lot easier."

Hendrick was at the race, watching his teams for the first time since an Oct. 24 plane crash near Martinsville, Va., killed 10, including his son, his brother, two crew chiefs and five drivers came to Homestead with a chance to claim the Nextel Cup title, four seeking their first championship. Johnson was the hottest driver coming

"It's a disappointment, no matter what," said Gordon, who ended the year third, 16 points shy of becoming the third NASCAR driver to win five series titles. "But knowing we had an opportunity to do something really special like that made it that much more meaningful — so it also makes it that much more disappointing."

The revamped NASCAR scoring system — a 10-race chase to the finish among the top 10 drivers — was designed with the hopes of adding extra intrigue to the season's final races, and its inaugural run delivered. Five drivers came to Homestead with a chance to claim the Nextel Cup title, four seeking their first championship. Johnson was the hottest driver coming

in, with four victories in his last five starts. He headed another Sunday, and felt just short.

"For the loss of so many people that were there, it's amazing that we were able to finish where we did and have the comeback that we did," Johnson said. "I wish we could have gotten the job done, but we can go to bed tonight knowing that we gave 100 percent, that we gave everything we could."

Johnson led the series with eight wins this year, but will spend the next few months wondering how to get eight points better.

"It's meant to be, it's meant to be," Johnson said. "And it wasn't in the cards for us this year."

NFL scoreboard

American Conference

NFL scoreboard									
American Conference									
East									
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Diff	1st	2nd	3rd
New England	9	0	.889	277	164	+113	1	1	0
Pittsburgh	8	0	.800	212	165	+47	1	1	0
Buffalo	6	0	.400	180	183	-3	1	1	0
Tennessee	6	0	.100	140	210	-70	1	1	0
South									
Indianapolis	7	0	.700	239	190	+49	1	1	0
Jacksonville	7	0	.667	186	181	+5	1	1	0
Houston	6	0	.400	198	239	-41	1	1	0
Tennessee	6	0	.400	186	212	-26	1	1	0
North									
Pittsburgh	1	0	.900	340	161	+179	1	1	0
Baltimore	7	0	.700	204	164	+40	1	1	0
Cincinnati	6	0	.400	183	183	0	1	1	0
Cleveland	6	0	.400	186	212	-26	1	1	0
West									
Denver	3	0	.700	233	167	+66	1	1	0
San Diego	3	0	.700	205	190	+15	1	1	0
Kansas City	3	0	.500	233	202	+31	1	1	0
Oakland	3	0	.300	182	270	-88	1	1	0

National Conference

National Conference									
East									
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Diff	1st	2nd	3rd
Philadelphia	9	0	.900	266	158	+108	1	1	0
N.Y. Giants	9	0	.500	196	172	+24	1	1	0
Dallas	6	0	.600	182	182	0	1	1	0
Washington	3	0	.300	111	208	-97	1	1	0
South									
Atlanta	8	0	.800	208	178	+30	1	1	0
New Orleans	6	0	.400	211	218	-7	1	1	0
Buffalo	6	0	.400	182	182	0	1	1	0
Carolina	3	0	.300	196	222	-26	1	1	0
North									
Green Bay	6	0	.600	256	226	+30	1	1	0
Minnesota	6	0	.600	240	240	0	1	1	0
Chicago	6	0	.600	182	200	-18	1	1	0
Detroit	6	0	.400	183	216	-33	1	1	0
West									
Seattle	6	0	.600	230	185	+45	1	1	0
San Francisco	6	0	.600	224	204	+20	1	1	0
Arizona	4	0	.400	177	214	-37	1	1	0
San Francisco	4	0	.100	175	236	-61	1	1	0

Sunday games

Sunday games									
Baltimore vs. Dallas									
Buffalo vs. St. Louis	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
Indianapolis @ Chicago	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
Denver @ New Orleans	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
N.Y. Jets @ Cleveland	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
Carolina vs. Arizona	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
Tennessee vs. Jacksonville	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
Minnesota @ Detroit	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
Minnesota @ Detroit	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
Tampa Bay vs. San Francisco	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
Seattle @ Miami	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
San Diego @ Oakland	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
Atlanta @ N.Y. Giants	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
Philadelphia vs. Washington	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
Green Bay @ Houston	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0

Monday's games

Monday's games									
New England at Kansas City	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
Indianapolis at Detroit	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
Chicago at Dallas	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0

Sunday, Nov. 28

Sunday, Nov. 28									
Tennessee at Houston									
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
Philadelphia @ N.Y. Giants	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
San Diego at Kansas City	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
Tampa Bay at Carolina	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
New Orleans at Atlanta	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
Seattle vs. Seattle	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
N.Y. Jets at Arizona	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
Baltimore at New England	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
Oakland at Denver	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0
St. Louis at Green Bay	1	0	.000	10	10	0	1	1	0

Sunday, Nov. 29

Sunday, Nov. 29									
Ravens 30, Cowboys 10									
Dallas	3	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0
Baltimore	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0

First Quarter

First Quarter									
Buffalo	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0
Dallas	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0

Third Quarter

Third Quarter									
Buffalo	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0
Dallas	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0

Fourth Quarter

Fourth Quarter									
Buffalo	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0
Dallas	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0

Final Score

Final Score									
Buffalo	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0
Dallas	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0

Individual Statistics

Individual Statistics									
Buffalo	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0
Dallas	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0

Running - Dallas

Running - Dallas									
Buffalo	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0
Dallas	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0

Running - Buffalo

Running - Buffalo									
Buffalo	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0
Dallas	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0

Passing - Dallas

Passing - Dallas									
Buffalo	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0
Dallas	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0

Passing - Buffalo

Passing - Buffalo									
Buffalo	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0
Dallas	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0

Receiving - Dallas

Receiving - Dallas									
Buffalo	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0
Dallas	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0

Receiving - Buffalo

Receiving - Buffalo									
Buffalo	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0
Dallas	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0

Defensive Backs

Defensive Backs									
Buffalo	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0
Dallas	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0

Defensive Line

Defensive Line									
Buffalo	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0
Dallas	1	0	.000	10	10	-20	1	1	0

Bills 37, Rams 17

10 7 0 0-37		4-36, 10-12
19 7 0 0-37		10-12, 10-12
First Quarter G Wilkins 41, 45-0 Run 18 pass from Bulger (Wilkins 18)		4-36, 10-12 10-12, 10-12 McAllister 5-81, 1-1 Missed
Second Quarter Campbell 10 pass from Bledsoe (Lin- 1, 13-56. Campbell 19 pass from Bledsoe (Lin- 1, 13-0. Holt 11 pass from Bulger (Wilkins 25. 1, 13-0. G Lindell 21, 34.		J N.Y. Jets Cleveland Cle- kish, 11-0. NY-G NY-Met kish, 5-32. A-73-74.
Third Quarter Campbell 5 pass from Bledsoe (Lin- 1, 13-56. Clements 86 pass return (Lindell 12. G Lindell 35, 8-03. G Lindell 33, 1-25. 3-993.		First down Total Net

Eagles claim another NFC East title

BY DAN GELSTON

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — There was another touchdown pass from Donovan McNabb to Terrell Owens. There was another easy victory over a division rival. Now the Philadelphia Eagles are one win away from another division championship.

McNabb tied a career high with four touchdown passes to lead Philadelphia to a 28-6 victory over the Redskins on Sunday.

The Eagles can clinch their fourth consecutive NFC East title with a victory at the New York Giants next Sunday.

"It says a lot about our organization, it says a lot about Coach (Andy) Reid, it says a lot about the players that are here," McNabb said.

Philadelphia is 9-1 for the first

time since the 1980 season, when they opened 11-1 and went to the Super Bowl.

While division titles seem routine, so are NFC title game losses. The expectations for this season after three straight championship defeats are Super Bowl or bust. While critics focus on the postseason failures, safety Brian Dawkins said it was time to enjoy the ride and not worry about where it ends.

"I don't want to talk about what we didn't do last year," Dawkins said. "I want to enjoy the game and if we get back to that point, I'm going to enjoy that game."

Philadelphia had plenty to enjoy against Washington thanks to McNabb.

McNabb threw two TD passes to Brian Westbrook and one each to Owens and Chad Lewis. It was

his second straight four-TD performance, fourth of the season and sixth in his six-year career.

Philadelphia has won seven of its 10 games this season by double-digit margins.

"They've been dominating this division," Redskins coach Joe Gibbs said. "They're well-coached, well-balanced and their quarterback is phenomenal."

McNabb, making his first start of the season after replacing the ineffective Mark Brunell last week, couldn't revive Washington's sputtering offense.

Ramsey finished 21-for-34 for 162 yards and an interception.

Clinton Portis ran 17 times for 37 yards.

"I think there's always things I think I can do better," Ramsey said. "I felt for the most part I was fairly accurate."

The Redskins (3-7) haven't

scored more than 18 points in a game this season, the longest the team has gone without scoring 20 points in a game since the 1930s.

McNabb ran five times for 34 yards, was sacked three times, lost a fumble and threw an interception in the first 35 minutes. He completed 9 of 12 passes for 93 yards and three scores the rest of the way. McNabb was 18-for-34 for 222 yards before Koy Detmer came in to finish the game.

McNabb's 1-yard TD pass to Westbrook took the Eagles ahead 21-6 with 9:01 left. His 14-yard TD toss to Westbrook capped the scoring.

The Eagles took a 14-6 lead on McNabb's 10-yard TD pass to Owens in the third quarter.

Owens became just the second receiver in NFL history to score 13 TDs in five different seasons, joining Jerry Rice — who has done it eight times.



The Eagles' Brian Westbrook spikes the ball after a touchdown reception Sunday in Philadelphia.

NFL SCORES, FROM PAGE 32

Eagles 28, Redskins 6

Washington 3 3 0 6-6

Philadelphia 7 0 17-14

Was—FG Kiffin 35, 7:59

Phl—Lewis 2 pass from McNabb (Akers kick), 26

Second Quarter

Was—FG Kiffin 24, 4:2

Phl—Owens 10 pass from McNabb (Akers kick), 3:06

Third Quarter

Phl—Westbrook 1 pass from McNabb (Akers kick), 8:56

Phl—Westbrook 14 pass from McNabb (Akers kick), 6:54

Fourth Quarter

Was—Phl 4-6

First downs 213 35

Total Net Yards 235 130

Passing 163 208

Rushing 70 22

Kickoff Returns 5-115 2-35

Interceptions Ret. 1-7 1-7

Comp-Att-Int 21-34 18-27

Penalties-Yards 5-53 3-40

Fumbles-Lost 1-0 1-0

Penalties-Yards 12-115 9-69

Time of Possession 28:29 31:31

Individual Statistics

Rushing—Washington, Portis 17-37

4-1, Ramsey 4-1, Philadelphia, Westbrook 12-63

Levens 7-19, McNabb 5-34, Tappin 4-14, Detmer 3-11

Receiving—Washington, Betts 21-34

16-1, Mitchell 16-222, Detmer 6-1-6

Receiving—Washington, Betts 6-36

4-18, Coles 4-34, Cooley 2-22, Thrash 2-19

Monte 2-17, Portis 1-10, McNabb 1-0, Philadelphia, Pinkston 5-106

Westbrook 5-125, Lewis 2-17, Mitchell 1-13

Field Goal—Washington, Kiffin 40-49

Packers 16, Texans 13

Green Bay 0 0 13-13

Houston 0 0 10-11-6

Second Quarter

GB—FG Longwell 32, 9:21

HOU—FG Kiffin 6 pass from Carr (Kibrown kick), 7:23

Third Quarter

GB—FG Kiffin 46, 1:48

HOU—FG Kibrown 40, 1:17

Fourth Quarter

GB—Driver 24 pass from Favre (Longwell kick), 10:56

GB—FG Longwell 39, 7:55

GB—FG Longwell 46, 6:30

First downs 68 10

Total Net Yards 473 251

Passing 277 207

Rushing 183 44

Kickoff Returns 4-60 4-73

Interceptions Ret. 4-2 4-9

Comp-Att-Int 31-52 12-27

Penalties-Yards 10-90 3-20

Fumbles-Lost 3-0 4-0

Penalties-Yards 10-90 3-20

Time of Possession 35:26 30:54

Individual Statistics

Rushing—Green Bay, Williams 6-32

4-18, Ramsey 4-18, Ferguson 4-18, Fisher 4-18

Frank 2-43, Chairman 1-27, Henderson 1-20

Wade 1-15, Houston, Johnson 6-57

Davis 6-41, Armstrong 1-16

Field Goal—Green Bay, Longwell 40-49

Houston, Kibrown 40 (WR).

Bus picks up Steelers, QB Roethlisberger

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Jerome Bettis and Pittsburgh's defense made quite a posse.

Bettis ran for 129 yards and the Steelers' blitzing defense created havoc Sunday, setting up a 19-14 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals that kept the NFL's longest winning streak growing.

Quarterback Ben Roethlisberger played like a rookie, so the 32-year-old running back and the old-style defense bailed him out in Pittsburgh's eighth straight win.

The Steelers are 9-1 for the first time since 1978, when they won their third Super Bowl in five years.

"Everybody expects us to be flawless," Bettis said.

"Sometimes you're not going to have your best game. That's when you have to find a way to win."

They took an old, familiar path: run the ball and let the defense do the rest, taking the pressure off the kid quarterback.

Roethlisberger has earned comparisons to Terry Bradshaw during his remarkable introductory season with eight starts, all wins.

This time, he looked much more like a green rookie than a black-and-gold legend.

The Bengals (4-6) came at him from all sides, had a season-high seven sacks and forced him to make poor decisions. Three times, he scuttled scoring chances by taking sacks.

"On a lot of the sacks, I take the blame," said Roethlisberger, who was 15-for-21 for 138 yards, but lost 54 yards on sacks. "I wasn't flustered, just disappointed in my play. But it's a sign of a good team when you can win when you don't play well."

Colts 41, Bears 10 At Chicago, Peyton Manning threw four more touchdown passes to reach the 30th, 13 shy of Dan Marino's NFL record set in 1994.

Edgerrin James punished the Bears with 204 yards on 23 carries. Both he and Manning sat out the fourth quarter.

The Colts (7-3) feasted on five turnovers by the Bears (4-6), four by shaky rookie quarterback Craig Krenzel, who lost two fumbles and threw two interceptions as the Bears' third starter.

Ravens 30, Cowboys 10 At Baltimore, the Ravens (7-3) were without star running back Jamal Lewis (ankle) for most of the game but came in on the second half against Dallas (3-7), led by the inspiring Kyle Boller.

Showing the pride and confidence of a rapidly maturing quarterback, Boller threw two touchdown passes in the third quarter. He



Pittsburgh Steelers running back Jerome Bettis (36) is tackled by the Bengals' Brian Simmons Sunday in Cincinnati. Bettis rushed for 129 yards in the Steelers' 19-14 victory.

went 23-for-34 for 232 yards in his third straight game without an interception.

Bills 37, Rams 17 Drew Bledsoe hit tight end Mark Campbell for three touchdowns, answering critics calling for rookie J.P. Losman to take over as starter for Buffalo (6-5).

The three touchdowns were the most Bledsoe has thrown since he had three in Buffalo's 38-21 win over Miami on Dec. 1, 2002.

Nate Clements returned a punt 86 yards for a score. St. Louis fell to 0-5.

Chargers 23, Raiders 17 At Oakland, the Chargers (7-3) won their fourth straight as Antonio Gates had eight receptions for 101 yards and a touchdown and LaDainian Tomlinson ran for 164 yards and a score on 37 carries.

San Diego maintained a tie for first place in the AFC West with Denver.

Kerry Collins won 18-for-30 for 227 yards and two touchdowns for the Raiders (3-7) and didn't throw an interception for the first time in nine games.

Broncos 34, Saints 13 At New Orleans, Reuben Droughns ran for 166 yards and a score, Jake Plummer threw for 224 yards and the Broncos (7-3) stayed tied with San Diego. New Orleans (4-6) has dropped five of its last seven, mainly because of a defense that is allowing almost 30 points a game — second most in the NFL — and the most total yards.

Owner Tom Benson criticized his team Sunday.

"It's the worst performance I've seen by them in the 20 years that I've owned them,"

Benson said. "They looked just like high school kids."

Titans 19, Jaguars 15 At Jacksonville, Steve McNair returned for the first time in a month, throwing a touchdown pass and directing two other scoring drives in going 18-for-30 for 209 yards despite signs of rust.

McNair was picked off twice and was sacked three times, including once for a safety with about 9 minutes to play. The safety gave the Jaguars (6-4) a 15-10 lead, but McNair led a 59-yard touchdown drive in 37 seconds that put the Titans (4-6) ahead 16-15 and then ran for the 2-point conversion.

Jets 10, Browns 7 At Cleveland, Quincy Carter's 11-yard touchdown pass to Justin McCarens with 5:32 remaining gave the Jets (7-3) a win in the week after poor play calling and clock management cost them a game.

New York's LaMont Jordan, filling in for a banged-up Curtis Martin, rushed for 61 yards in the fourth quarter to hand the Browns (3-7) their fourth straight loss.

Martin rushed for 88 yards on 17 carries. In the first quarter, he went over 1,000 this season and joined Hall of Famer Barry Sanders as the only players in NFL history to begin their careers with 10 straight 1,000-yard seasons.

Vikings 22, Lions 19 At Minneapolis, the Vikings (6-4) stayed atop the NFC North and ended a three-game losing streak as they shut out Detroit in the second half and overcame a 12-point deficit in the fourth quarter.

Daunte Culpepper completed 22 of 32 passes for 233 yards, two touchdowns and an interception in Minnesota.

Eddie Drummond ran the opening kickoff back for a 92-yard touchdown for the Lions (4-6), who dropped their fourth in a row.

Panthers 35, Cardinals 10 Career backup Nick Gonsky ran for 121 yards and three touchdowns and the Panthers (3-7) jumped to a 28-point halftime lead in winning at home for the first time. Muhsin Muhammad added two TD catches.

Levi Fitzgerald had a touchdown catch for the Cardinals (4-6), who started quarterback Shaun King for the benched Josh McCown.

Buccaners 35, 49ers 3 At Tampa, Joe Jurevics scored his first two touchdowns since last year's season opener, on passes from Brian Griese. Jurevics missed most of last season, as well as the first six games of 2004, with knee and back injuries that required surgery.

The victory was the fourth in six games after an 0-4 start for Tampa Bay.

The 49ers (1-9) have lost five straight and were held to just 197 yards offense.

Favre rallies Packers in fourth

Longwell kicks winning FG as Texans held scoreless in second half

BY JOEL ANDERSON

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — With two minutes left and the game tied, Brett Favre had the ball and a tiring defense in front of him.

The Houston Texans couldn't have been in a much worse situation.

"Favre is a guy that you never have enough points when you play against him," Texans coach Dom Capers said.

Favre led the Packers all the way back in the fourth quarter and Ryan Longwell kicked a 46-yard field goal as time expired, sending Green Bay to its fifth straight win, 16-13 over the Houston Texans on Sunday.

Favre was 6-for-7 for 42 yards on the final drive — the only incompletion came when he spiked the ball the same, so he set up Longwell's field goal. Longwell responded with his second game-winning kick in as many

weeks, completing Green Bay's rally from a 10-point deficit in the final quarter.

"It was a clutch situation," Packers coach Mike Sherman said of Longwell. "And he's pretty strong in those situations."

Favre was also pretty clutch, going 33-for-50 for 383 yards with two interceptions and a touchdown to Houston native Donald Driver in the fourth period. Driver had quite a homecoming, catching 10 passes for 148 yards.

The Packers sputtered on offense throughout the first three quarters, clearly missing injured star tailback Adrian Peterson, who was knocked out of the game with a rib injury in the second quarter. He finished with 15 yards on only five carries.

Relying on a third-string tailback (Tony Fisher) and a guy called up from practice, Aaron Rodgers (Walter Williams), Favre was forced to shoulder much of the offensive burden.

"At one point, we were totally out of running backs," Favre said. "We had to alter our gameplan some and had to abandon our running game a little bit."

That proved to be a good move. Favre finally got going in the fourth quarter, leading the Packers on a seven-play, 81-yard drive he capped with a 24-yard touchdown pass to Driver. Favre made a deft pump fake on the play, fooling rookie cornerback Dumitru Robinson and giving Driver a wide-open path into the end zone.

The Packers scored again on Longwell's 38-yard field goal midway through the quarter, tying it at 13.

Favre failed on his first attempt to break the tie, throwing an interception to Robinson, who was running step for step with receiver Antonio Chatman.

But the Texans went three plays and out for the third straight time, and Favre predictably came up big.

"Brett is probably the best quarterback in the game during the two-minute drills," Driver said. "He told us that we had to make a play and that's what we did."

Green Bay (6-4) stayed tied with Minnesota for first place in the NFC North.

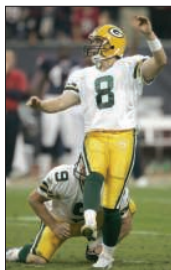
The Texans (4-6) lost their third straight and learned a valuable lesson about letting a veteran team hang around.

"You can't give a great quarterback like that anything," Robinson said. "That's Captain Comeback the Second with John Elway."

Texans quarterback David Carr started fast, but finished with a dud.

Midway through the second quarter, Carr connected with Andre Johnson for a 49-yard pass to the Green Bay 6. Carr found Dominick Davis in the flat on the next play for a 7-3 lead.

At halftime, Carr was 8-for-15 for 115 yards. After the break, he



Green Bay Packers kicker Ryan Longwell (8) watches his game-winning 46-yard field goal on Sunday against the Texans.

went 5-for-11 for 49 yards as the Texans were so bad on offense the crowd started booing. Davis was held to 65 yards on 21 carries.

"To go out and not score anything in the second half is not acceptable," Texans right guard Todd Wade said. "It's embarrassing."

Seahawks back atop NFC West with win over Miami

BY TIM KORTE

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Sometimes, the Seattle Seahawks look unstoppable.

At others, they look horrible.

But the same, the resilient Seahawks are back atop the NFC West.

Michael Boulware intercepted A.J. Feeley's pass and returned it 63 yards for a touchdown with 56 seconds remaining, lifting Seattle to a thrilling 24-17 win over the Miami Dolphins on Sunday.

With St. Louis (5-5) losing at Buffalo, the Seahawks (6-4) reclaimed first place in their division. Getting a win, however, was the most important thing for visibly relieved coach Mike Holmgren.

"Any time you can win a game, steal a game, it's huge," Holmgren said. "I expect to do better in a game, and we didn't do it today. That's troublesome to me right now. I can still enjoy the win and grind over a few of the missed opportunities."

It was another tough loss for Miami (1-9), which will stay out West to prepare for next week. The Dolphins traveled straight to San Francisco, where they'll spend the holiday week getting ready to face the 49ers.

"We've lost nine games this year and this is the one that hurts more than any of them," tight end Randy McMichael said. "We fought so hard ... It hurts worse be-



Seattle Seahawks' Jerry Rice, right, looks back as Miami Dolphins' Sam Madison (29) gives chase in the third quarter Sunday in Seattle.

cause we can't go home and see our loved ones."

The Dolphins could have had this one.

Seattle converted just 3-for-14 third-down opportunities, failing on key try at the 50-yard line midway through the fourth quarter.

The Seahawks allowed big plays on punt

and kickoff coverage, yet Boulware saved the big play for the end.

"I was able to read the quarterback's eyes," Boulware said. "I was able to get a good jump on the ball."

Feeley, hobbled with a sore right hip for most of the game, was looking for Chris Chambers on the right side when Boulware

caught the ball in stride. It was the fourth time this season Feeley has had an interception go back for a TD, and this one spoiled the debut of interim coach Jim Bates.

"I should have cut my losses and thrown it away," Feeley said.

As Boulware streaked past the Seattle bench, Holmgren turned and breathed a huge sigh of relief.

"What a wonderful play," Holmgren said. "We needed that so bad."

It was a gritty effort by Feeley, who played in severe pain after getting hurt in the second quarter. He directed a 48-yard drive in nine plays, and Orlando Mare's 39-yard field goal made it 17-11 with 2:20 remaining.

Seattle, which led 17-7 at halftime, was crisp in the first quarter but soon struggled with Trent Dilfer at quarterback. Dilfer made his first start since Oct. 27, 2002, because Matt Hasselbeck was sidelined with a sore right thigh.

"I wasn't comfortable," said Dilfer, who completed 14 of 28 passes for 196 yards with one TD and two interceptions. "I usually see the field the way I normally do. I didn't see things and don't get tricked."

After Mare tied it at 17, Dilfer overthrew Jerry Rice and Shaun Alexander, then he was sacked by Jason Taylor and Dario Romero.

Miami got the ball back, but Boulware made sure Feeley wouldn't finish the comeback.

Sunday's NFL stars:

Quarterbacks

- Peyton Manning, Colts, went 17-of-26 for 211 yards and four touchdowns in a 41-10 win over Chicago.
- Aaron Brooks, Saints, set team records for completions and attempts, going 36-of-60 for 377 yards, but was intercepted three times and sacked twice in a 34-13 loss to Denver.
- Drew Bledsoe, Bills, went 15-of-24 for 185 yards with three touchdowns passes to tight end Mark Campbell in a 17-17 win over St. Louis. The three touchdowns passes were the most Bledsoe has thrown since he had three in a 38-21 win over Miami on Dec. 1, 2002.
- Donovan McNabb, Eagles, tied a career high with four touchdowns passes in a 26-6 win over Washington. McNabb was 18-of-30 for 223 yards in his second straight 40-yard performance, fourth of the season and sixth in his six-year career.
- Michael Vick, Falcons, ran for 104 yards and threw two first-half touchdown passes to Alge Crumpler to lead the Falcons to a 14-10 win over the Giants. It was his fifth career 100-yard game.



Running backs

- Edgerrin James, Colts, had 204 yards and a touchdown on 23 carries in a 41-10 win over Chicago.
- Reuben Droughns, Broncos, ran for 166 yards and a 51-yard touchdown in a 34-13 win over the Saints.
- Ladanian Tomlinson, Chargers, ran for 164 yards and a score on 37 carries in a 32-17 win over the Raiders.
- Jerome Bettis, Steelers, ran for 120 yards on 29 carries in a 19-14 win over Cincinnati, passing Tom Dorsett for fifth place on the NFL rushing list.
- Nick Solings, Panthers, ran for 121 yards on 22 carries and three first-half scores in a 35-10 win over Arizona.
- Michael Pittman, Bucs, had 106 yards on 21 carries for two touchdowns in the past four games in a 35-3 win over San Francisco.

Receivers

- Dante Stallworth, Saints, had 122 yards and a touchdown on 10 catches in a 34-13 loss to Denver.
- Muntari Muhammad, Panthers, had six catches for 118 yards and two touchdowns in a 35-10 win over Arizona.
- Reggie Wayne, Colts, had 106 yards and two touchdowns on six receptions in a 41-10 win over Chicago.



AP photos

Freshman leads Virginia's upset of Arizona

The Associated Press

Sean Singletary was a sophomore in high school the last time Arizona played so poorly.

Singletary, Virginia's highly touted freshman point guard, had 15 points and made several big plays Sunday night in the Cavaliers' 78-60 upset victory over the No. 10 Wildcats.

It was Arizona's lowest point total since Dec. 15, 2001, when Michigan State defeated the Wildcats 74-60 in East Lansing, Mich.

Arizona, which led Division I in scoring last season, shot just 39.7 percent against Virginia. The Wildcats missed 19 of 24 from beyond the arc and had 21 turnovers.

"They'll need to shake it off quickly — Little Olson's team takes on Michigan in the Pre-season NIT semifinals Wednesday night in New York."

"You have nightmare games like this, and we've got one nightmare out of the way, I guess," Olson said.

Singletary has the Cavaliers (2-0) suddenly dreaming of making noise in the ACC after being picked to finish eighth. He shot 6-for-11 from the field, had eight assists — many drawing oohs from the crowd — six steals and five rebounds.

"We just have something to prove," Singletary said. "I know a lot of people are overlooking us."



They picked up to be in the bottom of the ACC. We're just going to stay humble about this win.

"We're in the beginning of the season, so it's nothing to be all hyped up about. We're going to stay humble and go to practice and work hard."

Virginia led 34-22 at halftime and the Wildcats never got any closer than nine in the second half.

The Wildcats' last challenge came when they closed to 67-58 on two free throws by Channing Frye with 3:15 left, but Singletary penetrated for a layup, then rebounded a miss by Salim Stoudamire and drew a foul. He made both shots to push the margin to 71-58.

Devin Smith led the Cavaliers with 17 points. Frye led Arizona with 17 points, Hassan Adams had 14 and Stoudamire 13, nearly 10 below his average.

"Virginia outplayed us in every area you want to talk about," Olson said as he scanned the box score. "It seemed like any time that we went into the middle, they came out with the ball. They did a really nice job."

No. 6 Illinois 91, Florida A&M 60: Dee Brown scored 20 points,

all in the first half, to lead the Illini at home.

Brown finished 8-for-8 and had four three-pointers as the Illini rolled to a 58-29 halftime lead. All five Illini starters scored in double figures to help Illinois improve to 2-0.

No. 12 Mississippi St. 99, Nicholls St. 69: Lawrence Roberts had the first triple-double in Mississippi State history.

Playing with a mask protecting his broken nose, Roberts finished with 18 points, 12 assists and 11 rebounds for the Bulldogs (4-1), who sealed the win in their home opener with a 20-7 run early in the second half.

No. 18 Alabama 85, North Texas 71: At Tuscaloosa, Ala., Chuck Davis scored a career-high 25 points, and the Tide shot 73 percent from the floor in the first half.

Earnest Shelton added 17 points for Alabama (2-0). Ronald Steele scored 14 points and Kennedy Winston had 13.

No. 25 Gonzaga 78, Montana 62: Sean Mallon scored 21 points and grabbed seven rebounds, and Gonzaga overcame sloppy shooting to beat visiting Montana.

Gonzaga (2-0) also got 20 points and eight rebounds from Ron Turiaf. Adam Morrison had 19 points and Derek Raivio added 13 assists.



THE DAILY PROGRESS/AP

Virginia's Sean Singletary drives to the basket during Arizona's Hassan Adams, left, and Salim Stoudamire during Virginia's 78-60 win.

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SPORTS



Favre guides Packers
to game-winning FG,
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For Artest, season is a rap

NBA suspends Pacer for year; 8 others punished

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Doling out some of the harshest penalties ever issued by the NBA, Commissioner David Stern banned nine players for a combined 143 games following a brawl in Michigan that embarrassed fans, players and officials alike.

The penalties were levied Sunday on players from the Indiana Pacers and Detroit Pistons. The most severe was for Indiana forward Ron Artest, who is out for the rest of the season.

"The line is drawn, and my guess is that won't happen again — certainly not by anybody who wants to be associated with our league," Stern said Sunday at a news conference at Madison Square Garden.

While coming down hard on the players, Stern also announced the league would review several procedures, from in-game security to alcohol sales, in order to establish a safer arena environment.



NBA Commissioner David Stern, left, suspended Pacers forward Ron Artest for the rest of the season for his role in Friday's brawl between players and fans in Auburn Hills, Mich.

"There is an element out there that thinks they can take certain liberties. That didn't really to be the case," Stern said. "We have to really begin anew to determine what that covenant of civil behavior in our arenas is going to be all about."

Pushing and shoving among players at Friday's game escalated into one of the worst fights in U.S. professional sports history when a fan threw a drink at Artest and he jumped into the stands, throwing punches.

Nine people were treated for injuries,



AP

and police are investigating possible criminal charges.

Indiana's Stephen Jackson was suspended for 30 games and Jermaine O'Neal for 25. Both players also threw punches at fans in the stands or on the court at the end of the nationally televised game at Auburn Hills, Mich.

Detroit's Ben Wallace — whose shove of Artest after a foul led to the five-minute fracas — drew a six-game ban, while Pacers guard Anthony Johnson got five games.

"The line is drawn, and my guess is that won't happen again — certainly not by anybody who wants to be associated with our league."

David Stern
NBA commissioner

Four others drew one-game suspensions.

All the suspensions are without pay. Artest will lose approximately \$5 million in salary, while O'Neal's suspension will cost him nearly 25 percent of his \$14.8 million salary for the current season.

Reaction to the suspensions came quickly: Players union director Billy Hunter said the penalties were unduly harsh and vowed an appeal Monday. Artest issued a contrite statement in which he also questioned the length of his suspension. And O'Neal's agent released an angry missive accusing the league of singling out O'Neal without taking into concern the fear for their own safety that the players were feeling.

SEE RAP ON PAGE 31

Busch refuses to be caught



AP photos

Kurt Busch waves a flag from his Ford as he takes a victory lap after winning the 2004 Nextel Cup Championship on Sunday at the Homestead-Miami Speedway. Busch finished fifth in the Ford 400 to clinch the title. Inset: Busch kisses his trophy after winning the Nextel Cup title in the closest points race in NASCAR history. See Page 29.

10th-ranked Arizona men get thumped by Virginia

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